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Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

Ten blacks among New Jersey's 100 history-makers of the century

By Amy Westfield and Thomas Martello
 Associated Press Writers

All changed the face of New Jersey, and sometimes the face of the world.
 At the end of this century, The Associated Press compiled a list of 100 New Jerseyans who made history, either in the Garden State or the world, during the past 100 years.
 Below are the ten black people included in their list:

COUNT BASIE, 1904-1984: Red Bank native studied music with his mother and went on to lead one of the major big bands in jazz history, a Kansas City radio announcer dubbed William Basie "Count" to put him on par with band leader Duke Ellington.

LARRY DOBY, 1924-: Paterson high school star and longtime Montclair resident helped break baseball's color barrier as first black player in the American League, seven-time All Star won two AL home run titles in major league career that lasted from 1947-59.

ALTHEA GIBSON, 1927-: East Orange resident dominated women's tennis in the late '50s; first black to win the Wimbledon in 1956; won U.S. singles championships in 1957-58.

A. LEON HIGGINBOTHAM JR., 1928-1998: Trenton native was a civil rights defender as one of the country's most prominent and influential black judges. Received the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in 1995.

WHITNEY HOUSTON, 1963-: Smooth, chart-topping songstress from Newark; slew of No. 1 hits include 1992's "I Will Always Love You," which stayed at No. 1 for 14 weeks. Keeps both her home and record company in New Jersey.

CARL LEWIS, 1961-: Willingboro native won nine Olympic gold medals in track and field, including four at the 1984 Games. Recently voted top summer Olympian of the century by The Associated Press.

TONI MORRISON, 1931-: Princeton professor who has chronicled black American experience in novels like "Song of Solomon" (1977) and "Beloved" (1987). Won Nobel Prize for literature in 1993.

PAUL ROBESON, 1898-1976: Born in Princeton, Robeson was a football All-American, vaudeville actor and Phi Beta Kappa at Rutgers at a time when few blacks attended college. Later became actor, singer and activist for racial justice and international peace.

SARAH VAUGHAN, 1924-1980: The "Divine One" started singing in church in Newark and grew to become Assembly Speaker 1974-75; 53-year pastor of Trenton's Shiloh Baptist Church was influential civil rights leader who fought discrimination against minorities by real estate and banking institutions; affectionately known as "The Pope" for his influence in church and politics.

The plight of homelessness revealed in HUD study

WASHINGTON — A landmark study reported today that most people who become homeless have suffered severe hardships-including physical and sexual abuse, childhood trauma, poverty, a poor education, disability and disease—but are successful in escaping homelessness when they get help from federal and other programs.

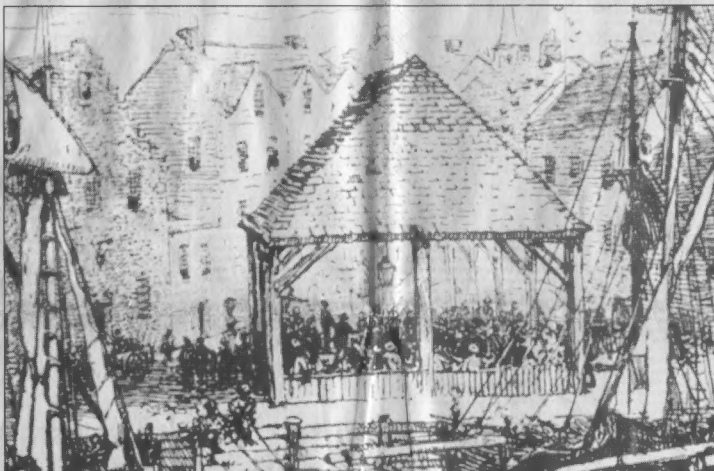
Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo released the report, which is the most comprehensive study ever of homelessness in America.
 The report is titled "The Forgotten American — Homelessness: Programs and the People They Serve," and is filled with revealing statistics that tell the story of people

around the nation who have fallen through the social safety net into homelessness.
 The report said the top priority of the 4,207 homeless people it surveyed was to get a job—the first step to self-sufficiency.
 It said 44 percent of homeless people surveyed worked at least part-time during the past month.

The report further indicated that 68 percent of homeless program clients are male, and 32 percent are female; 43 percent black, 38 percent white, 15 percent Hispanic, 3 percent Native American; 52 percent married with 80 percent of homeless women and 41 percent of homeless men have children 17 years old or younger.

Reparations

Where are our '40 acres & a mule'?



This portrait, painted by an unknown 19th century artist, depicts the Wall Street slave market opened on an East River pier in 1771. Today, Descendants of slaves like the ones depicted in this painting are grappling with Congress over the issue of reparations for American slavery.

By Gilda Rogers
 Staff Writer

It's been ongoing since 1889 and has gone nowhere — that's H.R. 40, a bill which has been introduced by Michigan Congressman John Conyers, year after year. It addresses reparation payments for slavery and Jim Crow laws passed upon African Americans for the sake of keeping a race of people in second-class citizenship.

"Slavery and the slave trade was one of the most horrific episodes of all these years," said chairman of People's Organization for Progress, Larry Hamm, at a press conference he assembled to shed light on the issue.

It's now 2000, and a commission has yet to be appointed to study this bill, when in cases of other nationalities reparation payments have come and gone. In

1952, Germany paid reparations to survivors of the Holocaust, which amounted to \$58 billion. In 1988, Japanese Americans rounded up during World War II were paid \$20,000 a piece. Australia has paid the Aborigines off in land compensation, and the list goes on.

But when it comes to resolution H.R. 40, there exists a peculiar problem in simply formulating a commission to review the issue. The following is the findings and purpose of the bill. The Congress finds that:

Approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and the colonies that became the United States from 1619 to 1865.

The institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by the Government of the United States from 1789 through 1865.

The slavery that flourished in



Rep. John Conyers
 the U.S. constituted an immoral and inhuman deprivation of

Africans' life, liberty, African citizenship rights, and cultural heritage, and denied them the fruits of their own labor; and sufficient inquiry has not been made into the effects of the institution of slavery on living African Americans and society in the U.S.

The purpose of this Act is to establish a commission to:

• Examine the institution of slavery which existed from 1619 through 1865 within the U.S. and

• the colonies that became the U.S. including the extent to which the Federal and State Governments constitutionally and statutorily supported the institution of slavery.

• examine de jure and de facto discrimination against freed slaves and their descendants from the end of the Civil War to the present.

Lack of loans to minorities prompts protest against HUBCO

HACKENSACK — New Jersey Citizen Action, the state's largest consumer watchdog coalition, joined by community leaders from Newark, Orange, East Orange and Irvington, picketed the Halsey Street branch of Hudson United Bank (HUBCO) in Newark, recently.

Carrying signs and singing protest carols, the coalition demanded that HUBCO come to the table and address its poor record of lending to minority and low-income residents in Newark and Jersey City in 1997 and 1998.

This picket comes after an application for HUBCO's merger with Dime Savings Bank of New Jersey was announced last Thursday.

According to data derived from the Home Mortgage and Disclosure Act (HMDA) filings for 1997 and 1998, HUBCO made only one mortgage and one loan to refinance to an African American borrower in all of Essex, Union, and Morris counties in 1998.

Only four mortgages were made to Hispanic borrowers. Although 23 percent of these combined counties' residents are low-income, only 5.1 percent and 3.1 percent of HUBCO's home purchase loans were made to low-income residents in 1997 and 1998, respectively.

Zero percent and 2.9 percent of HUBCO's loans to refinance were made to low income residents in 1997 and 1998.

Furthermore, though 7.7 percent of these counties' population is Hispanic, no loans to refinance were made to Hispanic borrowers there in 1998.

Even though 33.5 percent of Essex, Morris, and Union counties census tracts are low and moderate income (LMI), only nine percent of HUBCO's small business loans were made in LMI tracts in 1998.

"A look at the facts make it clear that the bank has not made a serious effort to lend to qualified minorities. The lack of loans, the amount of funds loaned, all cry out for both confessions and repentance," Rev. Reginald Jackson of Black Ministers' Council said.

"HUBCO needs to come to the table to discuss how to improve their lending performance," said Millicent Jackson of Corinthian Housing Development Corporation. "With only the handful of loans made in Essex County to African Americans and Hispanic, they clearly have much more work to do."

In Hudson County, no mortgages or home improvement loans were made to African Americans either in 1997 or 1998 and no loans to refinance were made to this group in 1998. Although 26 percent of Hudson County's population are low-income earners, HUBCO made no mortgage or refinance loans to low income people there in 1998.

Although lending by all banks in these counties is far from satisfactory, in most instances HUBCO measured far below the aggregate in lending to minorities and low-income borrowers and in 1997 census tracts in all four counties.

Of equal concern are the promises HUBCO made to the people of Newark in 1998, promises that have not been kept. In 1997, New Jersey Citizen Action picketed Security Bank's Newark branch and in 1998, an agreement was reached in the City of Newark.

At that time, New Jersey Citizen Action was able to negotiate an agreement with Security National to improve their lending, an agreement, there was a pledge to set aside \$ million for Newark residents, businesses and affordable housing development.

Black elite are optimistic about 21st Black America

By Carl Chase
 Staff Writer

African Americans responding to a recent forward-looking survey have grown optimistic about the future of Black America's struggle for equal rights.

Ebony's magazine's Survey on African Americans in the 21st Century, released in the January edition, revealed that 92 percent of America's black civic and political leadership are somewhat upbeat about the struggle: 56 percent are "cautiously" optimistic and 36 percent are less optimistic. Only 4.8 percent expressed pessimism about the struggle.

U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters said she believes the black American family unit will grow stronger by the year 2050, and two-thirds of the leaders surveyed agreed with her.

She also believes African Americans will gain equity in employment in the next 50 years, along with 27 percent of respondents.

Predictions of Black America's power elite

Within 50 years, an African American will be elected:		
• President	41%	
• Vice President	58%	
• governor in the South	48%	
• governor in the North (again)	41%	
During this period, African Americans will:		
• fall further behind whites in employment	17%	
• close the gap on employment	53.6%	
• gain equity in employment	27%	
In this period, black Americans will:		
• fall further behind in capital accumulation	19.5%	
• close the gap in capital accumulation	58%	
• gain equity in capital	17%	
accumulation		
In this period, black Americans will:		
• not produce a person of Martin Luther King Jr.'s stature and reach	26.8%	
• produce one person of this stature and reach	43.9%	
• produce two or more men or women of this stature or reach	29.3%	
In 2050, blacks will own or control:		
• no football, basketball or baseball franchises	0%	
• one such franchise	41%	
• three more major sports franchises	53.6%	

Source: Ebony Magazine's millennium Survey on African-Americans in the 21st Century.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

JERSEY CITY — The Jersey City Museum presents the works of artist Freddy Rodriguez. 5:30 p.m. (201) 547-5524.

NEW YORK — The Metropolitan Museum of Art hosts an art exhibit featuring the works of artist Carleton Watkins through Jan. 9, 10 a.m. (212) 533-7710.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Historical Society (NJHS) hosts a demonstration on food traditions outside the home. 12:15 p.m. (973) 596-8500.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Museum of the American Hungarian Foundation hosts the Eleventh Annual Festival of Trees. 11 a.m. (732) 846-5777.

ATLANTIC CITY — The Asian Art Exhibit highlights the best in Asian culture at the Atlantic City Art Center. Call (609) 347-5837 for information.

NEW YORK — The Morgenthaler-Fredrick Art Gallery showcases the works of photographer Katsumi Ohmura. Call (212) 226-5577 for information.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

ELIZABETH — The City of Elizabeth hosts the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Breakfast Meeting at the Elizabeth Public Library. 8 a.m. (908) 334-0606.

SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN — The Northeast Regional Horse Show is the number one rated horse show for hunters, jumpers and riders for all ages. The event takes place at the Snowbird Acres Farm. Call (908) 876-4200 for information.

PRINCETON — The Richardson Auditorium presents conductor Philippe Entremont performing the music of Beethoven. Call 1-(800)-255-3476.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

NEWARK — The New Jersey Historical Society (NJHS) hosts a demonstration on making peanut butter. 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. (973) 596-8500.

TRENTON — The New Jersey State Museum Planetarium presents the family laser show "Laser Hologram Spectacular." Call (609) 584-0676 for information.

RED BANK — The Count Basie Theater presents conductor Philippe Entremont performing the music of Beethoven. Call 1-(800)-255-3476 for information.

TRENTON — The Mercer County Community College (MCCC) hosts the family musical "Pippin" at the MCCC Kelsey Theater. Call (609) 584-9444 for information.

PLAINFIELD — Author Edward R. Anderson will sign copies of his book "The Mink Had Wings at Our Book Store." 2 p.m. (856) 755-8800.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

LINCROFT — The Monmouth County Park System offers a clinic in cross country skiing at Thompson Park. Call (732) 842-4000 for information.

EDISON — The Garden State Sportsman Show is a sportsman's dream with items for fishing, boating and hunting at the New Jersey Convention & Expo Center. Call 1-(800)-248-7469 for information.

PRINCETON — The McCarter Theater presents the Stuttgart Ballet for information.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theater presents conductor Philippe Entremont performing music by Beethoven. Call 1-(800)-255-3476 for information.

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

PERRYVILLE — The Hunterdon Hills Playhouse presents the comedy play "Blame Spirit." Call 1-(800)-248-7469 for information.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on special needs trusts at the New Jersey Law Center. 7 p.m. (732) 249-5000.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

JERSEY CITY — The Jersey City Museum presents the works of contemporary painter Jim Goss. Call (201) 547-5514 for information.

JERSEY CITY — The Jersey City Museum presents the works of contemporary painter Jim Goss. Call (201) 547-5514 for information.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State

Theater presents an evening celebrating the Hungarian culture in "Csardas. The Tango of the East." Call (732) 248-7469 for information.

ENGLEWOOD — The John Harris Center Arts presents an evening of "New Age" music featuring Liz Story and The Angels of Venice. Call (201) 567-3600 for information.

LINCROFT — The Monmouth County Recreation Department hosts the Tenth Annual Jersey Home Show at Brookdale Community College. Open Jan. 16. Call 1-(800)-332-9575 for information.

NEWARK — Unique Travel Club hosts a "Millennium 2000 Winter Gateway Ski Trip" to Hudson Valley Resort in Catskills, NY through Jan. 16. Call (973) 376-1313 ext. 332 for information.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

NEWARK — The New Jersey Historical Society (NJHS) offers live activity on being a NJHS detective. 10 a.m. (973) 596-8500.

LINCROFT — The 21st Annual MCCC Jured Exhibition offers participants many exciting things with multimedia at the Monmouth Museum. Call (732) 747-2266 for information.

NORTH BRANCH — The Litchfield Park School in Jersey hosts its Printmaking County Members Show. Call (908) 725-2110 for information.

ALLAIRE — The Mid Winter Invitational Antiques Show and Sale gives antique lovers a chance to view and buy one of a kind work produced by some of the best sculptors in the world at the Allaire Village. Call (732) 938-2253 for information and time.

ELIZABETH — The City of Elizabeth hosts its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at Elizabeth High School through Jan. 17. Call (908) 820-4220 for information.

LINCROFT — The Monmouth County Park System offers an outdoor cross country ski clinic session at Thompson Park. 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. (732) 842-4000.

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

WEST ORANGE — The Maurice Levin Theater presents a high-tech laser show. Call (973) 736-2200 for information.

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University (NJCU) hosts an art exhibit of wood block prints from printmakers Jiangsu Province at the school's Courtney Gallery. Call (201) 200-3243 for information.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

FORT WASHINGTON, PA — The Greater Philadelphia Sport, Travel and Outdoor Show returns with exciting exhibits and demonstrations for the true sportsman at the Fort Washington Expo Center through Jan. 23. Call (603) 431-4315 for information.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

EDISON — The 33rd Annual NJ Trailer and Camping Show is one of the largest RV and camping shows in the state. The event takes place at the NJ Convention and Expo Center through Jan. 23. Call (908) 392-5006 for information.

MAHASQUAN — The Algonquin Art Theater presents the Two River Theater Company production of "Uncle Vanya." Call (732) 345-1400 for information.

ATLANTIC CITY — The Sell Expo is the largest indoor all sailboat show on the east coast. The event includes boats, accessories and apparel. It will take place at the Atlantic City Convention Center through Jan. 23. Call 1-(800) 332-3976 for information.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

TRENTON — Mercer County Community College (MCCC) presents the play "Jerry and the Jersey Devil" at the MCCC Kelsey Theater. Call (609) 584-9444 for information.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

NEWARK — The New Jersey Historical Society (NJHS) hosts an exhibit on dining in New Jersey from then and now. 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. (973) 596-8500.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

NEW YORK — Kids Night On Broadway offers each adult who purchases a full price ticket to a Broadway show one free ticket for a child aged 6-18. Call The Broadway Line at 1-888-broadway, or 212-302-4111.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on wills and estate planning at the New Jersey Law Center. 7 p.m. (732) 249-5000.

Bell Atlantic CEO joins students for fun at NJPAC



NEWARK — William M. Freeman, president and CEO, Bell Atlantic New Jersey, poses with children from Newark's Children's Academy prior to a Bell Atlantic passport to Culture SchoolTime presentation of Pinocchio at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Bell Atlantic has sponsored the NJPAC SchoolTime and FamilyTime series since their inception in 1997.

College president returns to education committee



TRENTON — Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, was recently reappointed to serve on the United States Department of Education's National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity. This is his third term on committee. Throughout his career Dr. Pruitt has consulted widely in business and government, as well as within the higher education community. He is active in the formulation of educational policy both nationally and within New Jersey. Dr. Pruitt has served in an advisory capacity and received numerous awards and honorary degrees for his work.

Newark student wins national recognition



NEWARK — Aliza Kennerly of Newark recently received the National Achievement Scholarship Program nomination for 2000. She is a senior at Oak Knoll of the Holy Child in Summit. Kennerly is one of about 3,300 students nationwide who have been commended to U.S. colleges and universities in this program. These students scored in the top five percent of black Americans who applied for the program when they took the 1998 PSAT/NMSQT. The National Achievement Program, initiated in 1984, is an academic competition conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corp. Kennerly is the daughter of Thomas and Consuelo Kennerly of Newark. Oak Knoll School is an independent Catholic school established by Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, Oak Knoll is co-educational from kindergarten through sixth grade and for young women only in grades 7-12.

Barden named 'Employee of the Month' in Union County



UNION — The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders recently named James Stevie Barden (left) Employee of the Month for organizing a special event for children in his community for the past two years. He is seen here receiving a Resolution and Employee of the Month Award from Union County Freeholder Chairman Nicholas Scutari (center) and Deputy County Manager George Devanney.

Professional Women host Aviation 2000 forum



NEW YORK — Recently the Professional Women in Construction (PWC) held a breakfast forum on women and aviation entitled "Aviation 2000: Public/Private Partnership." The discussion was attended by a diverse crowd of nearly 200 that included many top-level officers of major companies as well as numerous subcontractors, suppliers and professionals. Guest speakers at the forum were (l-r) William Fife, corporate vice president, Frederick Harris, Richard Smyth, senior director corporate real estate, Continental Airlines; Jeanne Chandler, project manager of facilities engineering and planning, United Airlines; Frank Erickson, manager director corporate real estate, Ronald Factor, executive v.p./principle, Afls Corporation and Ernesto Butcher of Port Authority.

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— Paul Robeson

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NATIONAL BRIEF

JURY AWARDS FORMER A.M.E. PASTOR \$6 MILLION IN HARASSMENT SUIT

(NNPA) — A Jackson County, Missouri jury has awarded the Rev. Sandra McFadden-Weaver over \$6 million damages in a sexual harassment case against her supervisor in the A.M.E. church, Elder Prince Albert Williams.

After deliberating about six hours, the jury announced their verdict in favor of McFadden-Weaver. She was awarded \$1 million in punitive damages and \$15,000 in compensatory damages, directed at Williams, and \$5 million in punitive damages and \$25,000 in actual damages, directed against Bishop Vernon Byrd and the A.M.E. church.

Weaver charged that Williams tried to grab her chest on one occasion and often demanded sexual favors. She testified, through a deposition, complaints to church authorities went unheard. Williams was not investigated or demoted, Weaver said. Instead, Bishop Byrd authorized Williams to remove her from her position. The defense argued Weaver was removed because she had started another church of a different denomination not because of her sexual discrimination allegations.

Weaver, 40, former pastor of the Marsh Walker A.M.E. church in Kansas City, Mo., is now pastor of the non-denominational Community Fellowship Church of Jesus Christ located in the same city.

Defense attorneys and A.M.E. church officials have 70 days to file motions to appeal the jury's verdict.

MARYLAND STUDENT EXPELLED FOR TYPED "THREAT" TO KILL TEACHER

(NNPA) — A Maryland woman, Deborah Wilder, has charged Anne Arundel High School with racism for expelling her son, Eric Jones, after he wrote about planning to kill his teacher during a typing exercise. She is planning on suing the school system.

The note is reported to have said: "My plans for next summer is to kill my keyboarding teacher with success. Not have the police to find me after I pop the teacher's head off. I will have a lot of fun as I do this. When I'm done I will take this summary to a publisher and get this book published about how I killed my keyboarding teacher. This will be the best book ever published. I will be the New York's best seller #1."

Following the incident, Jones was suspended and recommended for expulsion on Nov. 3, even though he was not in violation of a school policy. He insists his statement was purely fictional.

The incident comes in light of increased scrutiny over "zero tolerance" school policies across the nation and its impact on students of color.

MARIAN W. EDELMAN AMONG U.N. APPOINTEES TO PROMOTE ANTI-RACISM CONFERENCE

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) — Children's advocate Marian Wright Edelman was recently appointed by The United Nations as one of seven "Goodwill Ambassadors" to promote the World Conference Against Racism to be held in South Africa in 2001.

All leading figures from the worlds of literature, music and human rights advocacy, the other six include Indian sitarist Ravi Shankar, Moroccan writer Tahar Ben Jelloun, Nobel literature laureate Wole Soyinka of Nigeria and Seamus Heaney of Ireland, former Icelandic President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, and Panamanian actor-musician, Ruben Blades.

The World Conference is the first international conference addressing racism to be hosted by a post-Apartheid South Africa. Regional meetings will be held around the world and a preparatory session in Geneva before the conference.

Black state legislators discuss issues facing minorities at annual meeting

By Simeon Booker Muhammad

(NNPA) — More than 600 Black state legislators met recently at Baltimore, Maryland's Inner Harbor to discuss some of the critical issues facing Blacks going into the next century.

The National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) 23rd annual conference drew leaders from politics, business and labor, including Democratic presidential candidates Al Gore and Bill Bradley, as well as the AFL-CIO head John Sweeney.

"... Less than two centuries have passed since Africans were forced to leave their homeland through the 'Door of No Return.' Some entered the New World through the gateway of Baltimore, bound to enforce labor and bondage in the South," welcomed Rep. James Thomas (AL), NBCSL president. "... And now all humanity is being swept through a gateway of technology into a new world of dynamic change unforeseen even a decade ago."

Though NBCSL is not well known by the larger public, its impact and effect on national issues — the disparity in racial incarceration for Blacks,



Presidential candidate Bill Bradley attended the annual conference.

the growing prison industry and environmental racism — is far-reaching.

"Core issues vital to the interests of Black people often-times begin at the state level with our members. Actually, you could say that NBCSL represents the Black body politic," said Khalil Abdullah, NBCSL communications director.

Abdullah also pointed out "50 percent of Congressional Black Caucus members came out of the NBCSL and about one-third of our members are women."

Historically, the high points of the conference are the resolutions passed by the body and the awards ceremony, according to Abdullah. Some of the more important resolutions passed this year were: financial support for the Black Press; entrepreneurial programs for youth; national examination of the use of psychiatric drugs on children; confirmation of African-American federal judges; and voting restrictions on ex-offenders.

Baltimore Delegate Salina Marriott received the prestigious Labor Award, given to the "state legislator who most exemplifies and demonstrates an understanding of the problems and issues of working people."

She was cited for her advocacy in the protection of workers' rights, as well as her leadership in the boycott of the Baltimore-based Crown Oil Company. She was applauded for mobilizing churches and civic organizations to respond.

Congressional Black Caucus member Rep. Elijah Cummings called the annual meeting "a significant opportunity for African American state lawmakers to address the social and economic challenges that our communities face."

AIDS orphans join the rank of street children in Zambia

By Jowie Mwinga

LUSAKA (IPS) — They swarm the central business district of Lusaka like invading locusts — hungry, aggressive and destructive. They move around in menacing little bands, darting away for cover when the police appear, only to reemerge with renewed determination when the coast is clear. They are Zambia's AIDS orphans — so it has been assumed for years.

According to official statistics, Zambia has the highest proportion of children orphaned by AIDS in the world after Uganda. By the end of 1997 some 360,000 children (nine percent of Zambian children under 15) had been orphaned by AIDS. The numbers continued to increase rapidly.

Social workers link the growing number of street children in the urban centers — 35,000 in the capital Lusaka alone in 1991 and twice as many today — to the AIDS epidemic.

However, new studies by the government and development agencies suggest that the growing number of destitute children is not necessarily a consequence of AIDS. The latest U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) report, made available to IPS, estimates half of the 75,000

street children in Lusaka are not orphans.

Meanwhile, new official government figures suggest that destitute children, with parents, are just as badly off as are orphaned ones. Seventy-three percent of children with both parents alive live below the poverty datum line, compared to 75 percent of orphans.

"These problems (food shortages, poor health, inadequate education, clothing and bedding) actually affect all the children, orphan and non-orphan, and indeed all the community members," the government's 1999 Situation Analysis of Orphans and Vulnerable Children says. "What is special about the orphans is the issue of lack of love, exclusion or discrimination."

Currently, Zambia, with about a million people living with AIDS, has 19 registered non-governmental organizations whose core mission is to help alleviate the plight of AIDS orphans.

"Analysis says the misconception that destitution among Zambian children is AIDS-induced may be diverting scarce resources from other areas of development in Africa."

Few such organizations, if any, exist to address the concerns of destitute non-orphaned children.



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2000. Y2k. The Millennium. What does it all mean? It's something very special, brand new, and empowering — that's my drift — none of us will ever pass this way again. I marvel in the thought of knowing the tranquil and awesome power that peace brings. As I step out into this world to know, I am quite frankly for the first time, shaking hands with myself, inviting me in and what an exhilarating way to celebrate the millennium. I can no longer be denied what it is I aspire or be duped into thinking what's best for me from external forces. Hopefully, this new year, unlike any other, will serve you as well. Self-actualization is indeed enlightening. However, in this capitalist society we've grown accustomed to, money looms large extrapolating all that is good. Wrong! That good comes from within. Sure we need the all mighty dollar to live, but too often we are blindsided and misguided in how to live when it comes to money. Power, is another thing that can make folks trip. Power is a devilish culprit, which extracts from within some of those beholding of it, ugliness — the revelation that has helped elevate my level of consciousness. I have also discovered along the way how superficial people are, as a result of not knowing who they are. They become caught up in the glitz, the glamour, the name brands, and all the other hulla-bull nonsense. So in this year brand new, I am going to tell you as it may seem — do you. Take the time to work on being the best person you can be, and life will become so much more rewarding. Be mindful of others and conjure up nice things to say. A pleasing compliment goes a long way. Practice patience and honesty. And above all don't deny what you feel. Whatever and however something makes you feel is real. Your feelings are absolute and should always be trusted to render you the right direction in which to move. Come to know you and live!

Elite feminists fight congressional support to foster good dads

By Rev. Jesse Lee Peterson

When I look back and see what has happened to the black family and community as a whole because of the absence of good fathers, I shudder to think of the destruction to come. I believe that, if this issue is not dealt with honestly, we will someday have a harder time that will be beyond our capability to control.

In my ministerial, I come in contact with many young men who are contemptuous of their fathers. Having been left by their fathers and living in an environment where they see only weak men like drug addicts, unemployed men and men not in charge of their homes, they are emotionally hurt. They must, then, either gain experience in the young man's life or the influence of women, and this totally negates their spirit, mind and body. These young men are highly emotional, intensely angry and very reactive. They have no respect for manhood.

But the hatred these boys feel is still not as strong as their longing for a father figure in their lives. Something must be done to fill the void in order for our families and community to grow and develop.

Congress is now considering legislation that may help to promote fatherhood, but it is under assault by radical feminists who reject the concept of marriage and family altogether.

The House of Representatives recently passed Congressman Nancy Johnson's "Fathers' Point Act" by an overwhelming margin. The Senate may take up a similar bill from Senators Pete Domenici and Evan Bayh in 2000. The bill states that an intact family is a good way to fight poverty as well as raise happy and well-developed children. The Johnson bill allocates government spending for "fatherhood initiatives" to keep families together and boost a sense of duty that might be wavering for some fathers.

In the Johnson bill, \$235 million will be spent over five years to "promote marriage and good parenting through counseling, mentoring (and) disseminating information" about things like relationship skills, money management and the encouragement

of timely child support payments and visitation in the event splits occur. It also promotes "helping fathers and their families avoid or leave cash welfare" through job assistance, work, training and educational reform programs. In welcome change from previous policy, this bill contains a "charitable clause" provision to allow church-based groups previously ineligible for such support aid to participate (these groups are sometimes the only ones available to poor communities). In addition, existing groups promoting fatherhood can get grants to continue and expand their work.

Radical feminists from the National Organization for Women (who hate men, I might add, how much more, they are trying to derail this bill. They make the ludicrous claim that the government would place its hands on women and children. They say this bill would force a mother and child to stay with an abusive father or tilt a custody battle in the father's favor. Incredibly, NOW executive vice president Kim Gandy is quoted as saying, "I'm promoting marriage as a goal, not a goal of itself, misbegotten."

Congresswoman Johnson counters that "NOW is ignoring what is now broadly accepted by the family as we know it. They are sharply aware that taking the father out of the home is the key to achieving the goal."

The resulting chaos-unwed pregnancies, homes without order, gang violence, drugs and mayhem has been unprecedented. This chaos has now spread all over America and across racial and economic lines thanks to hateful elitist feminists.

It is time Americans woke up to this fact, and begin to seek wisdom from those who want to help, not destroy.

Reverend Jesse Lee Peterson is the founder and president of the Brotherhood Organization of a New Destiny.

By Margaret C. Simms

The benefits of smaller classes in urban schools are the focus of a policy debate. Some policymakers and other influential have argued that reducing class size is not an effective use of money because the amount needed to make a significant difference would be prohibitive. But according to a number of scholarly studies, smaller classes do have a positive impact on educational achievement. Reducing classroom size was one of the strategies for improving education discussed at a Joint Center conference on Nov. 3 entitled, "Site Development for Black Workers in the 21st Century." Dr. Cecilia Rouse, an associate professor of economics and public affairs at Princeton University, presented evidence from a select group of studies on several different educational improvement strategies, including class size reduction and school vouchers.

Citing findings from the Tennessee Student/Teacher Achievement Ratio experiment (Project STAR), which began in 1985-86, Dr. Rouse argued that reducing class size is a good approach to improving educational outcomes for African American students. It may also provide a viable foundation for going on to college. Evaluations of Project STAR show that students placed (by random assignment) in smaller classes (13 to 17 students) scored higher on standardized tests than students in regular sized classes (22 to 25 students), even if the larger classes had teachers' aides. The improvement was greater for African American students and for those in inner-city schools than for others.

The benefits of this strategy appear to be long lasting. Students who had been in the smaller classes during the early years of elementary school were more likely to take college entrance exams and score higher on them as well. This was more often true for African Americans. Dr. Rouse also examined data from a Preschool to Grade 5 Grant Program in Milwaukee that required that schools with low achieving students in poor neighborhoods receiving the supplemental grants maintain relatively low pupil-teacher ratios. There, small class size appeared to result in significant improvements in math scores.

Some participants in the Joint Center conference asked if funding class size reduction in public schools was a cost-effective strategy. The smaller classes generally required more than one teacher but also fewer classrooms.

There are a lot of things one could say about the past 500 years for African Americans, but they all come down to one thing. We didn't get paid. So, there's no better way to end this long nightmare than to put The Artist Formerly Known as Prince in a pay-per-view concert. Do it to mark the end of Kwanzaa and the beginning of a new year. It will be his final live performance of "1999," a song that has gotten extensive airplay and sales since he released it in 1992. The one problem was that he didn't own the rights to it or most of his early music. But when he went into a meeting with his record company with the word "slave" written across his forehead, he began to demonstrate a new way. He's re-mastered "1999" and will sell it through his e-commerce web site along with new music. He has given a distribution channel to other independent artists like Sly and the Family Stone, Larry Graham, Maceo Parker and Mavis Staples. Now the \$19.99 PPV fee on New Year's Eve is for The Artist's concert.

Similarly, Black athletes have helped make a lot of companies rich. But George Foreman has begun the millennium as a bigger winner outside of the ring. The year that he returned to the ring after a 17-year absence, Foreman agreed to endorsing a line of charcoal grills for Salton Inc. in return for 45 percent of the profits. Now George Foreman Grills are \$200 million sales or 40 percent of Salton's revenues. Foreman just amended his pact to receive \$137.5 million in cash in equal installments over the next five years, plus \$25.5 million in Salton stock.

The Artist and Foreman both understand the new reality of survival in the 21st century — full compensation and ownership. The progress Africans Americans have made is astounding and unprecedented in world history, but we are still happy to get the chit'lins of the American economy while everyone else eats high on the hog. Don't start the New Year without making an investment in understanding our collective and individual economic value. The biggest reason we don't get what we deserve is that we don't know what we're worth.

The Artist understood that people around the world who don't even speak English know the words to his song. Foreman knew his image would promote sales. "Black Wealth, White Wealth" by Dr.

and building additional facilities is expensive. Dr. Rouse was unable to fully respond to that question, but findings from a recent survey by the Council of Great City Schools indicate that most big-city school districts have been able to hire teachers and find space for new, smaller classes.

The second installment for the Class Size

Early educational experiences are the foundation on which work skills must rest. If African American participation in the future workforce is to follow a successful path, improving current early education is vital.

Reduction Program was among the items in the 2000 federal spending bills approved by Congress last month. The program provides funding to school districts that will enable them to reduce class size to 18 students per classroom from grades one through three. The funds are distributed according to a formula based on enrollment and poverty. According to the Council of Great City

Schools, a consortium of large urban school districts, approximately one-quarter of the first year's money went to the neediest students in urban schools. In order to determine the impact of the initial funds provided under the Class Size Reduction Program, the Council's surveys to 54 large school districts, forty of the districts, many with large African American student populations, responded to the survey. According to the findings, the 40 districts collectively hired 3,558 new teachers for this school year using federal funds. Seventy-five percent of the districts also used the federal money to provide over 7,700 new teachers and nearly twice as many teachers already on payrolls with professional development opportunities. In some cases, the districts were able to supplement the federal money with state and local funds for these purposes. In spite of the tight labor market, only three of the responding districts indicated that they had to employ teachers who were not fully credentialed for classroom teaching, and three teachers constituted only 11 percent of the total number of new

teachers hired in the 40 districts. Some of the funding can be used for recruitment - advertising, travel reimbursement, and hiring bonuses - and the districts reported that just over \$2 million was spent for this purpose. Just over a third of the money went to providing hiring incentives such as moving expenses and tuition reimbursement.

The Council's report includes summaries of individual district initiatives. Some districts went beyond the regular training programs in order to bolster the skills of their new teachers. For example, the New Orleans Public Schools put together teams of mentors, consultants, and teacher liaisons to provide on-going support for the 109 new teachers hired. The services range from informal observations to highly structured activities such as curriculum and pedagogy skills development programs and specialized training institutes. In Philadelphia, where a lack of classroom space and a shortage of certified teachers were obstacles to achieving the goals of the program, funds were used for a "litteracy entry" program. Under this program, 254 recent college graduates (not fully certified to teach) were hired and placed in intensive professional development. It involved team teaching with a veteran teacher, reduced-size classes and participating in a series of summer institutes, seminars, and mentoring workshops.

It is too soon to determine whether these efforts have made an impact on the achievement of students in these districts, many of whom have the same characteristics as students who have benefited the most from the experimental class-size reduction programs established prior to the federal program. It is not known if initiatives on such a broad scale as those sponsored by the federal program can be as effective.

Early educational experiences are the foundation on which work skills must rest. If African American participation in the future workforce is to follow a successful path, improving current early education is vital. It is therefore important to find out if the results of the smaller class size reduction efforts documented in the experimental programs are validated when applied on a widespread basis.

Dr. Margaret C. Simms is vice president for research at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy research organization in Washington, D.C.

Black2K: Let's get paid this millennium

By John Templeton

Melvin Oliver and Thomas Shapiro, "Janteneeth" by Ralph Ellison and Randall Robinson's "The Debt" are must reads for the holiday season. Oliver's and Robinson's books both do an excellent job of quantifying our contributions to the American economic system. "Janteneeth" makes an attempt to quantify about America's ingratitude for our contributions.

Our own ignorance of history, not the progress African Americans have made is astounding and unprecedented in world history, but we are still happy to get the chit'lins of the American economy while everyone else eats high on the hog.

number of zeroes in computer programs, is the Black2K problem that threatens to lead us into another round of Jim Crow. People who understand the contributions of Black scientists, inventors, designers, engineers, farmers, politicians, soldiers, artists, musicians, athletes aren't content to make 43 percent less than Whites with similar education and experience, or to sign away the rights to their creative work for inadequate compensation. They won't sell off homes and land in valuable urban corridors or rural hotspots like the Sea Islands.

People who don't understand that Dr. Mark Deane led the development of the IBM PC-AT, the precursor to the personal computer age, are satisfied when high tech companies donate a few computers instead of hiring additional Black employees and contractors or providing venture capital to Black entrepreneurs. We need not rely on the famous like The Artist or George Foreman to know which way is up. The people of the century-old all-black town

in North Carolina, destroyed by flood and seaway from a hurricane, have the knowledge of their importance to hold on to their land.

The understanding to hold on to what we already possess rather than speeding wildly is the beginning point for Black2K. That goes from slavery to today's statistics that 75 percent of Black males between 18 and 34 face racial profiling by police.

Since we're going to be around, we need to handle our money like we're going to need it in the future. Pay ourselves by owning homes, not fancy cars; investing in education and training; creating investment clubs; leveraging experience into businesses, doing business with people from your own community and building commercial ties to the Caribbean and Africa.

Like the Artist, don't be afraid to admit you've been in slavery. That's the first step to being emancipated for Black2K.

John William Templeton is executive editor of Griot, the African-American, African and Caribbean business daily at <http://www.blackmoney.com>.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

NEWARK—The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) hosts a seminar on bank loans for small business at Two Gateway Center, 10 a.m. (973) 645-2434.

NEWARK—The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) hosts a seminar on preparing a business plan for a small business at Two Gateway Center, 1 p.m. (973) 645-2434.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

NEWARK—The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) hosts a seminar on minority enterprises in business for two years at Two Gateway Center, 9:30 a.m. (973) 645-2434.

NEWARK—The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) hosts a seminar on Y2K solutions for small businesses at Two Gateway Center, 1 p.m. (973) 645-2434.

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

EDISON—The Middlesex Chapter of the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners (NJAWBO) hosts networking meeting at the Clifton Hotel, 6 p.m. (201) 345-8408.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

NEW BRUNSWICK—The New Jersey Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on special needs trusts at the New Jersey Law Center, 7 p.m. (732) 249-5000.

NEW YORK—The Rainbow/PUSH Coalition's Wall Street Project hosts its "Career Opportunity and Development Expo at the New York Sheraton Hotel Convention Center, 10 a.m. (800) 395-5112 for information.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

NEWARK—NJIT hosts a seminar on government contracting for small business at the Mary Roebeling Building in Trenton, 10 a.m. (609) 343-4845.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Central Jersey Job Development Association hosts its 16th Annual Job Fair at the Rutgers Labor Education Center, 9 a.m. (732) 745-5300.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

NEWARK—S.C.O.R.E. hosts a seminar on starting and managing your own business at Two Gateway Center, 8:30 a.m. (973) 645-2434.

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Jackson calls for trillions of dollars for community reinvestment

By Peter Alan Harper

NEW YORK (AP)—The Rev. Jesse Jackson is pressing major financial institutions to ante up trillions of dollars for investment in minority businesses and neighborhoods.

Jackson said recently it is time to use the federal Community Reinvestment Act. It requires banks and insurance companies to lend money and make other investments in neighborhoods where they do business, especially low-income areas.

Strengthened community reinvestment requirements are part of a recently passed financial overhaul bill, which wiped out Depression-era restrictions preventing mergers between banks, brokerage firms and insurance companies.

"We must see to it that the powerful business proposition created for the private sector leads to an equally powerful



Rev. Jesse Jackson commitment to the communities in which they do business," Jackson said at a news conference previewing his third Wall Street conference, to be held in January.

He said that commitment means aiding housing, using minority advertising agencies, media and construction firms

and minority lawyers and accountants.

The conference will also include an economic literacy initiative in which the New York Stock Exchange will train 38 ministers at a time, four times a year in "the science of the market."

The idea is to encourage members of the clergy to take advantage of investing opportunities such as stocks and mutual funds.

These ministers will be able to follow the example of the Rev. James Meeks of Chicago, who has been preaching the gospel of "Debt-Free by 2003." Meeks said he is targeting 1,000 churches "to teach them financial freedom," by investing and cutting debt.

"People know the pastor, people trust the pastor," Meeks said. Now, Meeks said, he's going to "teach pastors to teach their congregations."

Study shows women still have a long way to go in corporate world

By Eileen Alt Powell

NEW YORK (AP)—Women now occupy one out of every 10 seats on the boards of the nation's largest companies, according to a study released recently.

However, the annual survey by Catalyst, a group devoted to advancing the role of women in business, found that there are 271 companies out of the biggest 1,000 with no women directors at all.

"The top American boards are the model for the way boards should function all over the world," they think that.

value of different points of view—presented by people with different life experiences—produces better board decision," said Catalyst president Sheila Wellington. "Women bring them a different perspective."

This year for the first time, the New York-based group expanded its study from the top 500 companies to the top 1,000, as rated by their own revenue by Fortune magazine.

It found:

• Women held 11.2 percent of the board seats in the top 50 companies, up from 9.4 percent

in 1993, when the first survey was conducted. That works out to 68 women on the boards of a total of 6,120 this year. But women held just 8.5 percent of the board seats in the 501-1,000 group.

• Eighty-one of the Fortune 100 companies don't have any women board members, compared with 190 in the second tier.

"It is our belief that by shining a spotlight on the full Fortune 1000 list, we will eventually see similar growth" in both tiers, Ms. Wellington said.

Women are at parity—or better—on the boards of just one Fortune 500 company, the auto giant, Gold West Financial Corp. in Oakland, Calif., has more women on its board than any other Fortune 500 company, while Avon Products Inc. of New York has an equal number of women and men.

An analysis of minority women found that they hold just 159 seats on the boards of 777 companies for which racial figures were available. They consisted of 111 blacks, 25 Hispanics, 18 Asians and five categorized as "other."

Financial planning for divorce

Part 2



Dale G. Caldwell

Last week I discussed financial planning issues related to divorce. I discussed getting married and having your first child. This week I am focusing on the financial planning issues related to getting divorced. In future articles I will write about planning financially for sending a child to college, taking care of your parents after they retire and losing a spouse through death.

Getting Divorced

Unfortunately, divorce has become commonplace in America. Many people say that this is because it is easier to get divorced than to get married.

Whether or not this is the case, it is clear that most people are hurt financially when they get divorced.

Everyone understands the emotional trauma that can be caused by divorce. However, few people think about the financial trauma that divorce causes until they are in the midst of divorce.

Legal fees alone have been known to drive individuals getting divorced into bankruptcy. Couples are often forced to sell homes and other property at a loss to make the division of assets easier.

In short, with few exceptions, if you get divorced you will be hurt financially.

Hopefully, before you get divorced, you will explore every option available to save the marriage (i.e. increased communication, special vacation, counseling, brief separations, etc.). However, if none of these things work and you are on the verge of divorce, you should do the following things to help you ease the financial pain of divorce.

Come to an agreement that you will work together to minimize the financial impact of divorce; this obviously cannot be done during an argument so have this discussion when tempers are cooled.

Identify a financial advisor who can help you both develop comprehensive financial plans that will help you survive the divorce. I have found that it is better to use someone other than a divorce attorney as a financial advisor because they usually are not Certified Financial Planners (CFP) or accountants. By working with a common financial planner both of your situations can be evaluated in the context of the other persons, thereby making it more

likely that both people survive the divorce. Finally, Divorce attorneys are focused on getting as much as possible for their client without regard for what is best for both individuals. This frequently increases the animosity between the couple and can hurt both parties financially. If you cannot agree on a common financial planner then you should each identify a financial planner that you feel comfortable with.

Before meeting with a financial planner reevaluate your financial goals and calculate your anticipated budget, income and net worth after the divorce. In addition, you should calculate your current joint net worth (before divorce) and project what your spouse's net worth will be after the divorce. These calculations are complicated by various state's community property laws. A financial planner should be able to help you through these complicated calculations.

When you meet with the financial planner you should have all necessary financial paperwork ready for his or her review (i.e. pay stubs, insurance information, wills, home mortgage, investment statements, etc.).

You should be able to discuss with the financial planner how you can maintain the same standard of living that you had before the divorce. The financial planner will help you determine in detail what your spouse may need (and the other pay in fair alimony and child support).

Once you have maximized the financial details out with a financial planner, you should have a thorough understanding of what your financial situation will be after divorce. Hopefully, the financial planner will help you devise a financial settlement that will maximize the standard of living for both of you.

Divorce is a very painful experience. A knowledgeable financial planner can help you minimize the financial pain of divorce.

Dale Caldwell, a national director of recruiting for Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group, is President and Founder of the National Association of Black Management Consultants. For information on the NABMC, write to P.O. Box 793, New Brunswick, New Jersey or call 1 (888) 410-5398.

Black people respond to targeted marketing campaigns

According to a report by Packaged Facts, black people are highly receptive to financial services that are marketed to them. Example: Deluxe Corporation, by creating a check series commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, exceeded their market projections by 15%.

Packaged Facts is a product of FIDISERV Research Publications Group

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The Minority Business-to-Business Directory is a directory of minority- and women-owned businesses and companies committed to doing business with minorities. The Directory teaches minority businesses, identifies minority and women businesses with whom public and private sector businesses and agencies can contract for products and services, and provides a growing force of minority businesses to the general consumer. The Directory features listings and advertising as well as provides a resource guide for minority and women entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs to help facilitate starting and maintaining a business. The Minority Business-to-Business Directory includes listings from public and private sector businesses and agencies, minority- and women-owned business and small businesses. A dedication of ownership is provided with each listing. The Minority Business-to-Business Directory is a tool for the growth and expansion of minority and women entrepreneurs and economic development in the African-American community.

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RELIGION
CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

MONTCLAIR — Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church holds evening vigil mass 6 p.m. (973) 744-1074.

EAST ORANGE — Our Lady Help of Christians holds evening mass 6 p.m. (973) 673-1077.

NEWARK — St. Lucy Catholic Church holds evening mass 6 p.m. (973) 482-6603.

MONTCLAIR — Immaculate Conception Catholic Church holds evening mass 6 p.m. (973) 509-1111.

Obituaries

Saxophonist Grover Washington Jr. was "Mister Magic"



Grover Washington Jr., the Grammy-winning saxophonist whose work formed a link between jazz, funk and pop recently died of a heart attack. He was 56. Washington collapsed while taping a television appearance for CBS' "The Sunday Early Show." He was rushed to St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan, where he was pronounced dead. Washington's conquest of his career explored the links among jazz, funk and rhythm and blues. His best-known album, "Whirlwind," was a top 10 record in the United States and won two Grammy awards. The single "The Two of Us," which featured Bill Withers on vocals, reached No. 2 on the U.S. charts in 1981.

Curtis Mayfield brought joy, thought-provoking messages in his music

Soul legend Curtis Mayfield, whose stylings influenced artists of all musical genres, died recently. He was 57. Mayfield was born in Chicago on June 3, 1942, and began singing by the age of seven. He taught himself to play the guitar and began writing and composing music, under the influence of his mother, who loved poetry. He talents led him into a career in music, which began in 1960, and lasted nearly 40 years. Among his hits during the period were classics as "It's All Right" and "People Get Ready." Mayfield's efforts epitomized the Chicago sound that rivaled Detroit's Motown in the 1960s, producing such classics as "It's All Right" and "People Get Ready." Mayfield suffered a serious accident in August 1990. While performing at an outdoor concert in New York a light tower collapsed onto him, damaging his spine and leaving him a quadriplegic. He was first induced into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with the gospel-soul group, the Impressions, in 1991 and in 1999 for his solo career. He lived in Atlanta with his wife and family.

Former State Senator Tony Imperiale was a handful in NJ politics

Tony Imperiale, a political firebrand who served as state senator, state assemblyman and Newark city councilman, died recently of complications related to kidney failure. He was 68. Born July 10, 1931, to a family of Italian immigrants, Imperiale was the youngest of six children. When race riots broke out in Newark in July 1967, he organized citizen patrols to keep black protesters out of Italian neighborhoods, and was criticized as a bigot who glorified vigilantism and played to white reactionaries. In 1970, he lost to Kenneth Gibson, who became the first black mayor of Newark and of a northeastern city. He then ran as an independent for the state Assembly and won. He was survived by his wife, Louise, five sons, Kenneth, Christopher, Michael, Gerard and Anthony Jr., two daughters, Tony-Lynn and Audrey, and 13 grandchildren.

Nation of Islam leader preaches unity at first public appearance

By Martha Irvine

CHICAGO (AP) — Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan says his fight with prostate cancer has left him a changed man — one who is preaching unity among all races and religions.

A smiling, fit-looking Farrakhan recently made his first public appearance in months to address reporters and about 200 supporters at the Nation of Islam mosque on Chicago's South Side.

Though he has been accused of making anti-white and anti-Semitic remarks in the past, he called for all people to unite on Christmas Day to pray for world peace. He said he'd come to realize the importance of such a message after what he called a "near-death experience" in March caused by a radiation-related rectal ulcer.

"There is no way that I could come out of that experience without making a complete commitment not just to my people when I love and would give my life for," said Farrakhan, who is 66. "But I will spend the rest of my days working to uplift a lost and fallen humanity, regardless of their color, their race or their creed."

Farrakhan said recent floods in South America and hurricanes in this country — as well as terrorist bombings and school shootings — are all signs from God that disaster is looming in the new millennium. But he also preached a message of hope, saying the people of the world have the power to avoid biblical prophecy.

Farrakhan, who spoke for more than an hour, was surrounded by family members and several members of Chicago's religious community.



Minister Louis Farrakhan

The Rev. Michael Pfleger, a Roman Catholic priest, held hands with Farrakhan and Farrakhan's wife, Khadijah, as he led the group in prayer.

"I believe he is the man who can bring us together — as Christians, as Jews and as Muslims," Pfleger, who is white, said after the service.

Amikhah B. Asiel, a nurse in the black Hebrew Israelite community, said he was heartened by the minister's statement that divisions between the Nation of Islam and the Jewish community "must be overcome" through the Holy Land. Farrakhan has been known for making their own statements against white Jews.

Farrakhan said his past statements, Asiel said, "I would prefer to take a more positive position and see where we go in the future."

Others who did not attend the speech said they were encouraged but wary.

"His act and his words in the future would certainly have to demonstrate to us that he has turned away from his message of anti-Semitism and division. We'll certainly be listening to his message in the new year and hope that he has turned over a new leaf," said Melissa Schop, associate director of the Anti-Defamation League of Chicago.

Farrakhan said daughter Fatimah Farrakhan, a registered nurse, has been caring for him throughout his illness. Although doctors have told him his cancer is in remission, he said his ulcer is 85 percent healed and may require surgery before he is "out of the woods."

In the meantime, he said he plans to give his annual Savior's Day address in February to honor the birthday of the Nation of Islam's founder. He said he also plans to attend the fifth anniversary of the Million Man March in Washington in October.

Farrakhan said he knows some will be skeptical when they hear his message of unity. But he vowed to approach the new year with "humbleness of heart."

"Only through our act of atonement can we be forgiven for what we have said or done to injure other human beings — a member of another race or a member of another religious group, another nation or another ethnic group," Farrakhan said. "We must try to end the cycle of violence and the cycle of hatred."

Look for increased diversity, fractures within denominations

By Gary D. Robertson

People interested in checking out the religious climate in North Carolina for the 21st century only need to look at construction sites in Piedmont cities to see what's ahead.

More residents from out of state or other countries moving to North Carolina for employment or for retirement are creating a building boom for both living spaces and spiritual places.

The Roman Catholic church, known as a small footnote in the state's religious history for two centuries, has experienced phenomenal growth over the past 20 years.

Large cities of Jewish, Muslim and Hindu populations also have grown, albeit on a smaller scale. And other Christian groups — Pentecostal denominations, the Mormons and non-denominational congregations — have seen a slow but steady increase during the late 20th century.

As it was in 1990, Protestants should continue to be the state's largest religious affiliation, but religious leaders will have to realize that tens of thousands — maybe more — don't worship a Judeo-Christian God, says one expert.

Other world religions are calling North Carolina home. Hindus succeeding in North Carolina business and professional fields have built a temple in Wake County with several hundred members.

It's unclear how many Muslims and Buddhists are in the Research Triangle area because many worship privately in their homes and are newcomers who haven't been counted yet in a U.S. census.

The growth in the Islamic faith — there are believed to be more Muslims now than Jews nationwide — poses the first threat to the black church as the undisputed spiritual leader of the race in America, said C. Eric Lincoln, Duke University professor emeritus.

The black church is still a large force in pushing for social change, but its power has been waning in recent years following the heyday of the civil rights movement, when the church played a vital role, said the Rev. James Arnett, dean of the Shaw University Divinity School in Raleigh.

But he doesn't think the decline will be lasting because non-religious solutions for society's problems have failed.

The Roman Catholic surge is attributed to the increased migration from Catholic strongholds in the Northeast and Midwest. In 1978, the state's Catholic diocese reported membership of 89,000. Today, there are more than 250,000.

Catholic parishes also should expand as Hispanics seeking work move into North Carolina. The state's Spanish-speaking population has more than doubled during the 1990s to at least 230,000.

Unlike the growth of English-speaking congregations in urban settings, the Hispanic influence is just as likely to be found in rural areas near farms where laborers toil in fields at harvest time.

At St. Julia's Catholic Church in Siler City the telephone recording describes three weekend masses, two in Spanish.

In 1991, the one Spanish mass at St. Julia attracted about 40 people, many of them working to support families back home. Today, there are 200 Latino families registered in the parish and about 65 Anglo families. The Rev. Dan Quackenbush, the parish priest, believes there are another 200 Latinos who attend but aren't counted.

The effects of the Hispanic migration also can be seen on a day like the feast of the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe in the Sampson County town of Clinton.

Theological diversity should continue to create controversy among the mainline Protestant denominations. Increased acceptance of homosexuals will threaten stability in the United Methodist Church (U.S.A.), Jackson said.

Leaders of the Baptist State Convention, struggling for years with the question of how fundamentalists and moderates can co-exist, floated a proposal to share control of top positions. But the state's largest denomination did not approve the proposal last month.

On the liberal end, the church needs to heed the call of a "social gospel" of helping the poor and demanding justice for the oppressed, such as migrant workers, women and gays, leaders say.

POSITIVELY BLACK

Kwanzaa goes contemporary with youthful hip hop appeal

By Junious R. Stanton

MEE (Motivational Educational Entertainment) Productions Inc. has taken on the challenge of educating and promoting the concept of Kwanzaa to a more youthful generation.

MEE researchers discovered that Kwanzaa was not as appealing in urban communities, but that there were numerous questions and misconceptions about the holiday.

"We found that people had misinformation about Kwanzaa," said MEE President Ivan Juzang. "They thought it was a religious event, that it had to be celebrated a specific way or that it was just for Afrocentric people. We wanted to give it a more contemporary feel so that people would focus on the values and principles of Kwanzaa and not be as focused on the strict observance."

To clear up the misconceptions and make it more comfortable for young people to celebrate and participate in the holiday, an instructional video was created to explain the holiday in everyday terms using various celebration scenarios. In the video, Kwanzaa is celebrated by a diverse cast of young urban actors in a myriad of settings and situations. The video is part of the MEE Complete Kwanzaa Kit, which comes with a poster and a guide that facilitates information on Kwanzaa, the principles, terms, symbols and activities for children to reinforce what they've learned.

MEE used the principle of Urban Cooperative Economics to locate and contact with African-American suppliers, manufacturers and vendors to assemble the kit to facilitate celebration via one stop shopping.

"The idea of the complete kit came when we looked at it as the celebration and discovered there was no one-stop shopping. You had to go one place to get the mat, another to get the Kinara, another to get the candles and we thought that for a lot of people that would be perceived as a barrier," said Juzang. "If it was too hard to celebrate then we are missing an opportunity to celebrate. We want to make it easy to



Doneshia Pigford (left) and Derrick Galleshaw celebrate Kwanzaa at William Paterson University in Wayne, N.J.

celebrate, easy to order, easy to assemble, easy to celebrate. Which was another reason for the guide and we wanted it to be easy to pack up as an heirloom and celebrate the next year."

Marketing the kit and Kwanzaa to a generation of inner city youth presented another set of challenges. While Kwanzaa is gaining popularity, it is celebrated mostly by the nationalist and minority and older African Americans. MEE wanted to change that to include more youth participation.

"It creates a lot of challenges because Kwanzaa has been seen as not contemporary so therefore the youth haven't been driven to it. It's not in the youth culture," he said. "So we have to find a way to make it appealing to youth, find ways to make youth want to participate in Kwanzaa, and try to reach out to adults who help make decisions for youth to go to them to see the benefits of Kwanzaa and use them in marketing the beliefs of Kwanzaa and the MEE Complete Kwanzaa Kit."

Having secured the components, warehousing space, assembled the kits, and shipping procedures the next challenge was gaining access to the market, getting exposure for the product. They created their own radio ad and a website specifically for the Kwanzaa Kit. The Website allows for E-commerce the direct order

ing of the product over the Internet. MEE has also linked with the other popular African-American websites such as Net Noir. Everything Black and MBBET.com.

"We don't want to look at it as something you only focus on during the holiday season. We want it to be a focus and mindset that people can use throughout the whole course of the year," said Juzang. "It will be a 12-month process every year looking at it as a five-year plan. We want to focus on America first, then South America, the Caribbean, then Africa then the world."

MEE Productions is a one-of-a-kind organization that focuses on studying, motivating and positively impacting urban trend setters meaning inner city African-American, Latino and low income youth.

Founded in 1990, the company has conducted communications research, created media campaigns on a variety of issues for both private and public sector clients, and won local and national awards for their educational videos on topics such as teen dating violence, HIV-AIDS awareness and prevention, teen marijuana use/prevention, and understanding and communicating with the Hip Hop culture.

For more information on the MEE Kwanzaa Kit, call 1-877-MEE-PROD or visit the website: www.MEEKwanzaaKit.com.

Prayer Corner

Jubilee:
The Black Church

If Jubilee is to be established, it must first start with the church. The church has been the bedrock of faith, a balm of healing for the hurting and weary, and a strong voice on behalf of the oppressed.

The black church is not a single institution, but it can be identified as a distinctive community whose faith is rooted and grounded in an interpretation viewed through the lens of a people victimized by almost three centuries of slavery. The black church has sought to acquire justice and rights which have been enjoyed, primarily, by the dominant culture of this country.

At its inception, the black church has been the most important and dominant institutional occurrence in African American communities. The black church carries burdens and performs roles and functions beyond boundaries of spiritual nurturing in politics, economics, education music, and culture. It has been involved in missions that embrace domestic activities such as family, education, urban ministries, and the institutional church.

This excerpt taken from the African American Jubilee Bible.

CityLife

UNCF rings in banner year

New Jersey fundraising efforts pays big dividends for 'Evening of Stars' gala

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

Old money is good, but new money is even better when it comes to the United Negro College Fund in its commitment to ensure an attainable goal . . . for students to attend any one of the 39 historically black institutions of higher education despite their financial needs.

"New Jersey expects to celebrate a banner year this year," said Valerie Cole-Davis, who, along with John Reed is the NJ chapter's assistant area development director.

Under the leadership of Ronald Paige, area development director, the state is expected to reach its goal of \$440,000, when the annual fundraising gala — "Evening of Stars" airs on January 9, on WNBC Channel 4 from 12-4 p.m. and top the entire state's contribution of \$4.1 million, after meeting its sponsorship goals on a local, regional and national level.

Cole, along with the staff at UNCF found just reward in all their effort to raise money to benefit the fund at the "grassroots" level — that's the new money.

"You can sustain money but you can't raise money sitting behind a desk," said Cole, who used the "Summer Fun for the Fund" event hosted by Maria and Bill Hoogterp as an example.

"We raised \$1,250 in their backyard with an old fashioned barbecue," said Cole. "People paid \$15. We want people to know that all those \$15 add up."

And this serves just as one example of what the UNCF state's staff has done to reach into the community and champion people to value the UNCF slogan — "A mind is a terrible thing to waste," by participating and donating.

Although dubbed an "Evening of Stars," this year's show is being televised in the afternoon because of donated air time and because of financial constraints. However, this



(Left to right) Star Jones, Lou Rawls, Debbie Allen and Lynn Whitfield will serve as co-hosts of the United Negro College Fund's television special, "An Evening of Stars — A Celebration of Education Excellence" airing January 8. The nationally syndicated special will feature celebrity talent including Lauryn Hill, Whitney Houston, Barry White, Mariah Carey, Chaka Khan, Michael Jackson, Phil Collins, the Stylistics, O'Jays, Neville Brothers and other artists. The show will also feature stories of success featuring UNCF students and alumni.

Serving as this year's area host will be Pat Battle and Fran Charles of Channel 4.

It was in 1943, that Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, then president of Tuskegee Institute wrote an open letter in the "Pittsburgh Courier" to the presidents of other private black colleges urging them to "pool their small monies and make a united appeal to the nation-

al conscience." His idea took root, and on April 25, 1944, the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) was incorporated with 27 member colleges.

The NJ chapter has put forth a valiant effort to raise funds and not just funds restricted to scholarships. But funds that are earmarked to support, upgrade technology and labs and improve conditions of the

39 historically black colleges and universities.

In 1998 the NJ chapter was ranked No. 15 in fundraising out of the 24 UNCF chapters across the country. This year it is ranked at No. 8 and anticipates seeing a ranking in the top five for the year 2000 — thus proving the folks in NJ are serious about raising money to support its youth.

Photo by Larry Hamilton



Photo by Dana Liseberg
Whitney Houston



Photo courtesy of the Essence Awards
Lauryn Hill



Photo by Peter Figueira
Earth, Wind & Fire

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Local Briefs

Ten Newark residents graduate welfare to work program

NEWARK — Essex County Executive James W. Treffinger, John Delahunt, General Manager, Host Marriott Services Corporation at Newark International Airport and Megh Williams J. Linder, Founder of the nonprofit New Community Corporation (NCC) recently celebrated the success of ten graduates who have completed Marriott International's Pathways to Independence Program, which is part of NCC Gateway to Work, and have already begun full time employment in one of Marriott's hospitality businesses. The welfare to work program is a collaborative effort of Essex County and New Community who joined with Marriott, which has provided training and employment to over 2100 people nationwide since 1991, moving them from welfare to self-sufficiency. With implementation of welfare reform throughout the country and the state, Essex County and New Jersey have sought partnerships with community-based organizations like NCC, as well as corporations to assist in training and providing employment for those receiving public assistance. NCC's Gateway to Work program, which was established one year ago as part of County/State/Federal welfare initiatives, has pursued the support of state sector agencies to meet the need for career opportunities for its program participants. NCC, the largest community development corporation in the nation, is a leader in welfare to work programs, community investment and job-creation.

PSE&G honors 'Non-Profit' organizations breakfast

NEWARK — PSE&G in conjunction with the Center for Non-Profit Corporations, recently hosted a breakfast declaring January 10 as the 'Non-Profit Appreciation Month at The Newark Museum. Mayor Sharpe James and BPU President Herb Tate were on hand for the event. PSE&G will prominently recognize the critical work of the non-profit sector in the greater Newark area. In addition, a statistical report on the state of the non-profit sector in New Jersey and trends in the industry will also be provided.

Gifted and talented students brainstorm in Essex County competition

NEWARK — Fifth and sixth graders from Abington Avenue School in Newark recently completed in the Essex County Problem Solving Convocation in Nulley, New Jersey. The convocation, which is sponsored by the Essex County Steering Committee for Gifted and Talented students, challenges students by pairing them ten minutes to solve approximately thirty problems in math, science, English, history and social studies. Devin Adornio, Philip Martinez, Kavita Ramanani, Randy Richardson, Sasha Rodriguez, and Jose Sandango teamed with other students from Essex County. "The competition is a team effort and student contributions are strongly based on their knowledge of a particular subject. Many students that are knowledgeable in current events and those who are well read will do well," said Mrs. Elizabeth Barton, Gifted and Talented teacher at Abington Avenue School.

CIT Group donates \$100,000 in telecommunications equipment to Newark high school

NEWARK — The Newark Public Schools State District Superintendent Marion A. Bolden recently announced that the CIT Group* Inc. has donated \$100,000 worth of telecommunications equipment to Technology High School in Newark, to help further the chances of students obtaining better jobs upon graduation. The CIT Group is a financial services company based in New York City. Among other telecommunications equipment, the company donated a PBX (private branch exchange) machine, which is a computerized telephone system used to conduct conference calls and activate music while the caller is on hold. Technology High School principal Dr. Steven Kravner explained that the equipment is being used to give students hands-on training to reinforce what they learn in their text books.

The donation is a result of John Weston, contacting Albert R. Gumber, President and Chief Executive Officer of CIT to tell him of the need for telecommunications equipment for technical training at the school. Mr. Weston is a retired ADP Company Chief Executive Officer who served as "Principal for a Day" at Technology High School earlier this year.

Governor Whitman coasts to the end of a roller-coaster year in NJ

By Thomas Martello

TRENTON (AP) — Gov. Christie Whitman, who will always be able to say she was the one in charge at the turn of the millennium, has no idea exactly where she'll be when the New Year's clock strikes midnight.

Perhaps she'll toast 2000 with family and friends. But if lights flicker or people panic at the dawn of Y2K, Whitman expects to huddle down to the state's emergency command center in West Trenton, where she'd be surrounded by those who figured so prominently in the biggest controversy of her roller coaster ride through 1999: members of the New Jersey State Police.

The Republican governor knows many troopers will never forgive her for asserting some were guilty of unfair treatment of minority parties, for dismissing their leader and replacing him with an outsider. She understands the "racial profiling" furor of 1999 — a high-octane political controversy inflamed by her Senate candidacy — will go away quickly.

"You'd have to be a nitwit not to know when we started to attack the racial profiling issue that it was going to be a very rough ride," Whitman said in an interview with The Associated Press. "There was never a question in my mind it could get very brutal and very bitter. (Troopers) still blame me for a lot of what happened there. Over time, they'll understand I haven't been their enemy."

Whitman talked of State Police Supt. Carson Dunbar's attempt to get the rank and file to replace a system her attorney general says allowed a disparate treatment of black motorists and troopers. She hoped for troopers to "put it behind them" and move ahead to the job at hand.

The governor also looked ahead, saying initiatives for the elderly would top her wish list for 2000.

As she sat at her desk at the Statehouse, her computer's screen saver showed placid winter scenes: snowmen popped in and out, always with smiles on their faces. It fit the governor's mood. After a tense year, she was at ease.

The immense political pressure that dogged her for much of the year drained away when she pulled the plug on her Senate campaign in September. Although the move infuriated Republicans who saw her as their best shot to capture the seat being vacated by retiring Democrat Frank Lautenberg, Whitman no longer had to bristle at the notion that her every move as governor was designed to further her campaign for Senate.

For Whitman, the end of 1999 marked the calm after the storm. "It's been a year of real satisfaction," Whitman said. "And it's been a year of real frustration."

You'd figure a year in which motorists no longer raised fists of anger over auto insurance and property taxes — the Hitler and Mussolini of New Jersey issues — would show all is well with Whitman's world. Auto insurance rates were at least temporarily tamed by a new law and, while property taxes are still sky-high, the state did begin sending new rebate checks to homeowners. Whitman also signed a law designed to pre-

Newark partners with Babyland to provide after school program

NEWARK — Roseville Avenue and Avon Avenue Schools in Newark recently established a collaborative venture with Babyland Family Services Inc. to provide an after school program that offers comprehensive services for the city's family. The program, titled Family Friendly, is a New Jersey State Department of Human Services initiative and is funded through a \$50,000 grant to Babyland.

Family Friendly offers classes in subjects such as dance, music and drama to students ages five and older throughout the year. In addition, family members are offered advice and referrals for employment training, and housing, or counseling for problems, such as substance abuse. The students participating in the Family Friendly Program are also taken on trips to places such as the Liberty Science Center, the Newark Museum and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

The Family Friendly Program operates Monday through Friday between 5 and 6 p.m. at Roseville Avenue and Avon Avenue Schools.



Gov. Whitman

serve open space over the next decade, and the economy continued to hum along.

But other issues marched in to replace the old ones. There was racial profiling and the State Police, and a successful politically explosive fight to name her attorney general, Peter Verrino, to the state Supreme Court.

There was another constitutional challenge over the state's commitment to poor urban schools. Battles over funding school construction and road projects will spill into 2000. At year's end, motorists found a new reason to rage: a revamped auto emissions testing system that prompted monumental delays at inspection stations.

Whitman spent half the year as a candidate for Senate, raising

goals of money and freeing out any GOP competition. Thus, all issues for Governor Whitman were also seen as issues for Senate Candidate Whitman. Even the summer drought attained a strange political spin.

The governor pleased neither side of the State Police issue. Troopers and their supporters hated the firing of State Police Supt. Carl Williams, the attorney general's reports on racial profiling, and the indictments of two troopers on attempted murder charges for opening fire on four minority men in a van they had pulled over on the New Jersey Turnpike in 1998. Black leaders remained wary of a governor who had previously denied the existence of racial profiling.

"When we found there were problems, we admitted it," Whitman said. "And instead of people who really cared about racial profiling saying, 'Let's work together to fix it,' we were held up as having a terrible police force. We were the first ones in the nation to admit it, and we weren't given kudos. We were humiliated."

While Governor Whitman needed political juice to get things done, Senate Candidate Whitman was pouring it down the drain. Those who felt Whitman needed their political support took advantage.

Senate President Donald DiFrancesco, who would have spent a year as acting governor if Whitman won the Senate race, was now even a bigger player. Whitman's first choice to lead the State Police, Andre Parker, reportedly removed his name from contention partly because of DiFrancesco's lack of enthusiasm.

Whitman saw her tenure as governor becoming lost in politics. And she knew her ability to push for changes at the State Police would ebb as a Senate candidate. So she shocked the political world by ending the campaign.

When asked if the State Police issue had a big impact on her decision, Whitman said: "Yeah, it did. I wanted to look in the changes we're making. I wanted to make sure we had moved far enough so it would be hard to go back on them."

Many politics saw Whitman's exit from the Senate race as a sign of weakness. Her voter approval rating, however, rose. Then the questions about a possible vice presidential pick in 2000 arose again. Unlike four years ago, Whitman does not attempt to quiet the talk.

In fact, it is already part of the presidential debate. Whitman's name was taken in vain last week by conservative candidate Gary

Bauer, who specifically called for her to be kept off anybody's ticket. Bauer cited Whitman's veto of a bill that would ban the so-called partial birth abortion. Whitman says she wants all late-term abortions prohibited, but that the health of the woman should be taken into consideration.

"For social conservatives, she is an icon, she is the person who personifies the opposite to their position," said Steve Salmore, a political scientist and a consultant to some Republican candidates. "It's something she has to deal with, and it's going to be very difficult to shake that position."

Whitman, who is expected to endorse George W. Bush, knows a presidential candidate would have much to mull about her.

"Obviously, the perceived weakness would be the far right's vehement objection because of my stance on choice and on social issues," Whitman said. "That also would be a strength, because that appeals to people outside of the normal Republican base, and that's what you need to have to win."

Right now, Whitman's main worries have to do with another race: the one to succeed her. DiFrancesco and Assembly Speaker Jack Collins are both eyeing her job, which makes for interesting politics as both try to impress voters.

Whitman knows she'll have to horse-trade even more in her next-to-last year, but said, "The ambition of the various players can be a positive part of the dynamic." Translation: They need me to make them look good.

And while her influence may wane, she wants to enjoy her role as Whitman the Governor Who Isn't A Senate Candidate.

"We're going to do what we want to do," Whitman said. "If that ticks off some people, well, so be it."

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CityLife

An event fit for a Queen

By Glida Rogers
Managing Editor

Such immeasurable strength, such amazing grace, such breathtaking beauty, such living history. The mother of all that is maternal. Winnie Madikizela Mandela represented all these things as she loomed large above the standing room only crowd and delivered a rousing keynote address at the Pre Kwanzaa Festival held December 18, at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark. The event, sponsored by Black Cops Against Police Brutality and Women In Support of The Million Man March, proved to be more than a celebration — for me it was an awakening.

With not an empty seat in the house, I planted myself on the floor at the very front of the room and before I knew it, I found my African self through every word she uttered from her mouth. Queen Mandela looking exquisitely elegant in animal print garb and turban, whisked me away to my homeland, with an old fable I thought I knew but had never heard before. The fable.

"In South Africa, when a mother is ready to give birth she is taken into a ceremonial hut and the umbilical cord, which connects the baby to his mother is cut by the groom."

After about ten days the navel cord of the baby drops off and in a ceremony it is buried. Hospitals here may throw out those navel bits to all my children, here, your navel is buried in Africa," she stressed with such soul stirring conviction that it resonated an unbridled empowering feeling in me that



Winnie Mandela raises her fist in black pride as Fredericka Bey, Newark Mayor Sharpe James, and East Orange Mayor Bob Bowser join in applause for the "Queen Mother" of Africa.

honestly, I'd never felt before.

The festive occasion was conceived by BKAP founder and East Orange police officer, Delcey Davis, and featured — business people promoting their Afrocentric wares, spirited oration, song and dance, topped off with the presence of esteemed dignitaries (Mayor Sharpe James, Mayor Robert Bowser, Maryland House Senator Clarence Mitchell, Ms. Rita Owens, scholars Drs. Leonard Jeffries along with his wife, Minister Benjamin Muhammad) helped to illuminate the evening. Headlining the show,

were the thousands of people who turned out and made the festival a dazzling success.

To be in the company of a woman, who has been tried, tested, and found to be true, for the entire weekend was good food for this woman's soul. With Fredricka Bey, executive director of Women In Support of The Million Man March, a strong Queen Mother in her own right, who addressed the crowd that gathered at the WISOMM Mansion on Friday evening to receive Queen Mandela, she, too, was equally inspiring.

"The Africans on this side of the gate

were not leaving without the Africans on the other side of the gate," said Bey in regard to the drama that ensued at Kennedy Airport, where the Queen Mother and her traveling companions were detained for four hours. Immigration stated her visa was not a multiple entry visa and since she had already been in the U.S. once this year, she was met with resistance upon entering the country. It wasn't until telephone calls were made to Mayor James and Congressman Charles Rangel in New York and other high ranking officials, was the matter rectified.

The intimate setting at the WISOMM Mansion captured the essence of a family reunion, with the matriarch of the family reveling in the spirit of the evening — rose petals placed at her feet, African chants and inspired dance reverberated the rhythm of the Motherland. Despite her long journey and ordeal of the day, Queen Mandela, president of the African National Conference Women's League, received all who gathered graciously.

Hidden behind doe-like eyes the meekness of child, Queen Mandela's surprise visit to Metropolitan Baptist Church's Sunday morning worship service was met with a humble sense of joy and pride by the congregation, with Pastor Jefferson saying he would be remiss if he didn't ask her to say "hello." Queen Mandela then briefly addressed the congregation and invited all to visit their home and hers in Africa. And like a quiet storm . . . "Amandla," she charged with clenched fist . . . that's power and I caught it all.

Glenn Delan-Wilson contributed to this story.

Amandla!



CBS's "Newsmakers" anchor Gaudance Kelly (left) poses with Mandela, TBI Inc. CEO Tanika Riley, and City News Managing Editor Glida Rogers. Kelly, Riley, and Rogers, handled media relations for the event.



Mandela poses with founder and president of Black Cops Against Police Brutality Delcey Davis and City University New York professor Dr. Leonard Jeffries.



Delcey Davis poses with Minister Benjamin Muhammad of Mosque No. 7, flanked by bodyguards.



Winnie Mandela and Linda Jefferson share an amusing moment to themselves during the festivities.



The Liturgical Dancers from Metropolitan Baptist Church perform an African dance as Mandela and guests look on.



Winnie Mandela poses with Linda Jefferson and husband, Pastor David Jefferson of Metropolitan Baptist Church.

Photos by
Harriet
Ginn, and
Vincent
Bryant Jr.

CityLife

City News B2

January 5 — January 11, 2000

Alive and well: The struggle of African women

Gertrude Mongella

February 2

"The Role of Women in Conflict Resolution, Peace Negotiation, and Promotion in Africa"

Ambassador Gertrude Mongella (Tanzania) is a highly member of the international community and has spent her career working to eliminate violence and discrimination against women. She served as Secretary General of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, sponsored by the United Nations. She also served as a member of parliament and held ministerial positions in the Tanzanian government of 15 years, and has held office in many international organizations such as the Organization of African Unity, Advocacy for Women in Africa and The Hunger Project.

'Out of Africa'

This is the second presentation of Rutgers Distinguished African Women Lecture Series

In an effort to combat American stereotypes of African women, Rutgers University's Department of Africana Studies

recently featured a lecture on December 1, 1999, by

Tsitsi Dangarembga, one of four visiting African women

speakers sponsored by the Rutgers University Department of Africana Studies in New Brunswick.

Prosper Godonoo, Assistant Director of Africana Studies, spoke about the need to present positive images of African women to the general public.

"Often, the images people see are women as illiterates, and with no sense of professionalism. These types of pictures have dominated the American psyche. We wanted to address the stereotypes."

Godonoo explained that the department sought women from each of the northern, southern, eastern and western regions of Africa, specifically searching for academics, politicians, artists, and social activists. They located the women chosen through contacts in the community, then made a pitch to the Ford Foundation to help sponsor the project.

Dangarembga, a native of Zimbabwe, has an extensive resume. She is an accomplished novelist, playwright, poet, and filmmaker.

Among her many works are her film *Everyone's Child*, a story about the devastation of AIDS in an Zimbabwean family, and a widely renowned novel, *Nervous Condition*, a book that describes the gender, class, race and cultural changes in colonial Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). She currently resides in Germany, where she is developing additional films.

Dangarembga spoke on the topic "The Agency of African Women is Goal-Directed." Her speech focused on sanctions against women in African countries. "Sanctions are important when considering the plight of African women. The African woman has goals of what she should be." She mentioned that observations and goals were important in determining agency. She thought women should be observed by those women who are traditionally not spoken about. Goals should be inquired about simply by asking the women to describe them. She said journalists are more apt to question war related crimes like rape, but not to ask about positive goals. Emphasis is on negative aspects of women's lives, said Dangarembga.

Continuing, she addressed the impact sanctions have on goal-directed women. Two types of sanctions are in place in African countries, she explained, direct sanctions, and indirect sanctions. Direct sanctions work to prohibit women's actions. An example of this is a woman who wants to trade gold, but is prohibited from doing so by the legislature. This was done in colonial times, explained Dangarembga.

Indirect sanctions, by contrast, are more covert. Indirect sanctions allow goals to emerge. However, the magnitude of output would be low compared to input. Dangarembga said these types of sanctions are not desirable because, she asserted, "they act as noise. They are wasted energy and are not productive."

Dangarembga said indirect, covert sanctions are more energy intensive, in part because they are not acknowledged publicly. She proposed indirect sanctions to be made public knowledge. She recalled the labor of trying to get a film made, and not receiving funding from sources. Most companies were only interested in supplying funds if she had not focused on the plight of African women. But by doing so, she would have given up the goals of her film. This was an example of energy being directed to non-realization, maintained Dangarembga.

Dangarembga then spoke about how women's future goals are influenced by the past, and how they can be understood by analyzing three periods of history: pre-colonial, colonial, and post colonial.

In pre-colonial times, says Dangarembga women were subordinate to men. During the colonial period, direct, open sanctions hurt women. These sanctions deprived them of land and trading opportunities. And when women protested these injustices, more laws were enacted that kept them in poverty. Thus, women manipulated their perception of goals. They changed their goals, decreasing them. "It was the women themselves who set the new, lower, goals," proclaimed Dangarembga, who added

that by decreasing their goals, women could conserve energy for goal directed use at a later time. This manipulation allowed women to survive. "So, the system survives and continues," she said. In 1991, during the post-colonial era, a survey by the Zimbabwe Bureau reported women saying they saw little improvement in their situation. Rural women complained about not having enough firewood in drought prone areas. Some improvements had been made, however. Women could sell grain. They were learning natural farming methods. School was now available to women. Women could also own a business.

The survey noted that in 1981, women had described themselves as oppressed. But in 1991, the women had analyzed their positions, and were not able to strive for material goals because of sanctions.

During the post-colonial period, direct, legal sanctions were removed, and women enjoyed the same legal rights as men. Still, said Dangarembga, "the onus is on women to seek legal address."

Dangarembga hypothesized about what the future holds for women. "What I hear is a new goal, a new agenda being articulated by women." She said women were not putting gender at the top of their concerns, but focusing on issues as poverty and national identity. In closing, Dangarembga stated the importance of looking at sanctions as a factor that curtails African women, but was positive about the future role of women.

"The people of Africa have always celebrated their women." —

Kelly Foster



Tsitsi Dangarembga signs copies of her book at her lecture held last month at Rutgers University Douglass College campus. Dangarembga spoke about the status of women in Africa in terms of class, race and cultural tradition.



Tsitsi Dangarembga poses (from left to right): Abena Busia, Associate Professor of English & Women's Studies; Richard Schroeder, Director of the Center for African Studies; Prosper Godonoo, Assistant Director of Africana Studies; and Dorothy Hodgson, Assistant Professor of Anthropology.

Yassine Fall
February 29
"Global and Macroeconomic Development"

Yassine Fall (Senegal) is an economist with expertise in gender and development, macroeconomic policy, policy, environmental management, trade policies, education and health reform, emergency relief operations, child labor studies, and food security analysis. She was instrumental in the founding of Partners for African Development/Poverty Forum and the Gender and Economic Reform in Africa group and is currently the executive secretary of the Association of African Women for Research and Development. She continues her activism for women's equality through the formation of grassroots and institutional networks.

HeartBeat

CITY NEWS B3

January 5 — January 11, 2000

Health Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

PARSIPPANY — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its Parsippany office 12 p.m. 1-800-8-0000-NJ.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Health Center (PHC) offers after hour urgent care 6 p.m. (908) 753-9400.

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for parents with children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7 p.m. (732) 745-8600.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

WEST ORANGE — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its West Orange office 12 p.m. 1-800-8-0000-NJ.

PLAINFIELD — The P. Arvel Health Center (PHC) offers after hour urgent care 6 p.m. (908) 753-9400.

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people who are dependent on nicotine 5:30 p.m. (732) 537-8250.

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for adults with diabetes 7:30 p.m. (732) 745-8600.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

WEST ORANGE — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its West Orange office 9 a.m. 1-800-8-0000-NJ.

NEWARK — St. James Hospital holds a blood drive at the hospital conference room through Jan. 12 12 p.m. (973) 465-2675.

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for women who breast feed 4 p.m. (732) 745-8600.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

PARSIPPANY — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its Parsippany office 9 a.m. 1-800-8-0000-NJ.

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people with children who have cancer and blood disorders 11 a.m. (732) 745-8674.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

WEST ORANGE — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its West Orange office 2 p.m. 1-800-8-0000-NJ.

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for teens with diabetes 7 p.m. (732) 745-8574.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

PARSIPPANY — The Blood Center of New Jersey holds a blood drive at its Parsippany office 12 p.m. 1-800-8-0000-NJ.

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for caregivers of cancer patients 7 p.m. (732) 745-8600.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for parents who have children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7 p.m. 1-800-8-0000-NJ.

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people with children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7 p.m. (732) 745-8600.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people who have children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7 p.m. (732) 745-8600.

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people who have children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7 p.m. (732) 745-8600.

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people who have children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7 p.m. (732) 745-8600.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people who have children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7 p.m. (732) 745-8600.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people who have children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7 p.m. (732) 745-8600.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people who have children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7 p.m. (732) 745-8600.

Tywnda Moss an inspiration for all to become organ donors

By Delsenia Glover

NEW YORK — Ten years ago Tywnda Moss, then a college freshman at Georgia Southern University, was walking to class when she noticed, but ignored, a shortness of breath, attributing it to poor diet or a lack of exercise.

Over time, Tywnda continued to become more and more exhausted and awoke one night to find her left side completely numb.

Following a physical, Tywnda was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy, a disease of the heart muscle that can result in cardiac failure. She was told she would eventually need a heart transplant.

One morning in 1991, while sitting in class Tywnda fell into a deep sleep like state where she was unable to move and was taken by ambulance to Emory University Hospital in Atlanta. She was not getting enough oxygen to her brain, and was given only three to four months to live unless she received a new heart.

Tywnda was immediately placed on the organ transplant waiting list. After being told it might take months to find a donor, she was placed on medication which made her feel well enough to resume her classes, while waiting for a new heart. Her condition worsened and like many patients awaiting a transplant, she was given a gooner to keep in constant contact with her transplant coordinator.

After desperately waiting, Tywnda finally got the call that she had been matched with a donor and rushed to Emory University Hospital where she received a new heart. Tywnda has since become an ardent supporter of organ and tissue donation.



Tywnda Moss

"Through the donor family's generosity, I was given a second chance. I know that I can never replace their loved one, but somehow I feel a part of her lives on in me, and I thank God for sparing my life and providing me with an opportunity to tell others about organ and tissue donation," said Tywnda.

Since her heart transplant, Tywnda has dedicated her life to educating others about the importance of organ and tissue donation, and spreading the word about her personal experience resulting from her successful transplant. She was named "Georgia's May Day Queen" by Gov. Zell Miller in 1997 for her dedication to raising awareness about the importance of organ and tissue donation.

Tywnda has recently begun traveling around the country speaking with various groups, especially African-Americans, about transplant issues and the success in recent years of the entire transplant process.

It is important to me to reach the African-American community, as many of us are awaiting life-saving transplants. The more donors we have, the more lives we save. It is as simple as that."

One third of the 56,000 people in the U.S. waiting for an organ transplant are African-American. Of the ten people who die each day awaiting a

vital organ transplant, three are African-American. A short age of organs by African-Americans (lower than 12 percent) contributes to death and longer waiting periods for transplants. It is believed that some African-Americans may be hesitant to become donors for several reasons, including:

- Lack of information regarding facts vs. myths about transplantation,

- religious and cultural beliefs,

- historical distrust of the medical community, i.e., fear of premature death

- concerns about racial prejudices or preferences in the donor/recipient process

Although there is a shortage of organs for minorities, especially African-Americans, Tywnda Moss vividly illustrates the benefits of organ donation, and how transplant recipients can live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives.

Organ donation coupled with the availability of newer more effective medicines called immunosuppressants, greatly reduce the risk of the patient's body rejecting the organ, the single biggest fear of patients and doctors and hospitals. This is one of the main reasons why Tywnda is encouraging more African-Americans to become donors, since an African-American patient is less likely to reject the organ of an African-American donor.

For information on how to become an organ/tissue donor or to learn more about the entire process, contact the National Coalition on Organ and Tissue Donation at 1-800-355-SHARE

Flu and pneumonia shots can be life preservers for African Americans with diabetes, CDC says

ATLANTA — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health agencies are urging people with diabetes to get vaccinated against flu and pneumococcal pneumonia because they are three times more likely to die with flu and pneumonia than people without diabetes. Yet, half of people with diabetes get annual flu shots and only a third have ever gotten a pneumococcal shot, says the CDC. African-Americans, who are less likely to get immunized against flu and pneumococcal pneumonia even though they are disproportionately affected by diabetes, are especially encouraged to get vaccinated.

Of all non-Hispanic blacks, 10.8 percent have diabetes, compared with only 7.8 percent of non-Hispanic whites. Yet, according to a recent national study, only 48 percent of African-Americans reported getting an annual flu shot and only 14 percent of them reported ever having gotten a pneumococcal shot (also known as a pneumonia shot).

People with diabetes need to get a flu shot every year before flu season, which usually runs from November through March. One pneumococcal shot is generally enough protection for a lifetime for most people, but people under 65 years with a chronic illness (such as diabetes) or weakened immune system should ask their doctor about getting another pneumococcal shot 5 to 10 years after their first one. It is safe to get a pneumococcal shot at the same time as a flu shot.

Getting the flu or pneumonia shot is good for anyone with a chronic disease. For those with diabetes, the flu or pneumonia shot dramatically reduces the daily management of the disease and can be deadly," said CDC Director Dr. Jeffrey Koplan. "Flu and pneumococcal shots are simple, safe preventive measures that people with chronic diseases can take to protect themselves from the risks associated with flu and pneumococcal pneumonia."

According to the CDC, each year 10,000 to 30,000 people with diabetes die with complications of flu and pneumonia. Other adults at high risk for deadly cases of the flu or pneumonia include people aged 65 years or older, people with weakened immune systems (such as HIV/AIDS or those receiving chemotherapy treatments), and people with other chronic diseases such as kidney, liver, lung and heart disease.

"Although flu shots don't prevent all cases of the flu, they do not cause the flu," said Dr. Koplan. "These disease-preventing shots are essential for many people with chronic diseases, in addition to all people aged 65 and over even if they are completely healthy. We also recommend an annual flu shot for their family members and health providers so they stay healthy too."

The flu shot protects only against influenza viruses, and not against other causes of fever and colds. Be sure to talk to your doctor before getting these important vaccinations.



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Artz Wednesday

City News & Arts

January 5 — January 11, 2000

Music Reviews



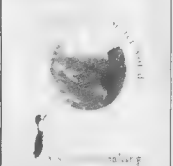
Mint Condition *Life's Aquarium* (Elektra Records)

On "Life's Aquarium," Mint Condition manages to swim its way through the sludge of music trends many artists use today, like guest appearances by other artists on every song and two or three remixes to a song.

Rather, this band has formed a bedrock of gifted songwriters and talented musicians who make up one of contemporary music's most solid bands.

Their sound is a mix of the romantic ballad "If You Love Me," which runs along the same soothing sound as "Pretty Brown Eyes," and "Pretty Lady," featuring the album's only guest, Charlie Wilson of the Gap Band.

Other standouts on the album include "Touch That Body," "Is This Your Pleasure," and "This Day, This Minute, Right Now."



Various Artists *Sounds of a Better World* (Vital Records)

For those who like good music going toward a good cause, this album delivers just that through this array of artists and sounds on this album. This collection brings together many well-known choirs, including the Boys Choir of Harlem and the Norwegian Children's Choir, dance music diva Martha Wash, singer Odette and baritone Geoff Holder (known also for his role as a commercial producer in the Eddie Murphy flick "Boomerang"). Along with these different artists are the sounds of club, dance, R&B, chorus, classical, and opera music that make this album truly worth while.

Produced by music veteran Jim Papoulis (who has worked with many of the artists on the album), standouts on the album include "Listen to the People," featuring Martha Wash and "Feel The World Dancing," with Wendy Moten.



TLC *Dear Lie* (single) (LaFace/Arista Records)

The guitar-strung melody is a nice, soft lyrically superior selection from the group's latest album, "Fanmail." The song is a musical letter to lies that affect us in our lives.

In the hook, it is an open statement "get out of my mouth/get out of my head/get out of my mind/top putting words in my head/get out of my mouth/you're nothing but trouble/get out of my life/get out of my life." This heartfelt song is not the best cut off the album because of its very slow tempo, but certainly will have equal success to its predecessors since it will appeal to a pop audience.

Ruff Ryders help BET drive in the new year with concert



Eve

By Rob Williams
Staff Writer

MOUNT VERNON It was dark, but it definitely wasn't hot as he.

Despite the chilly temperature that blanketed the New York flower pot of hip-hop, the Ruff Ryders crew entertained thousands at a pre-New Year's Eve nighttime bash Dec. 23 at Memorial Stadium. The concert was a taste of what audiences can expect this year as the Ruff Ryders prepare for its concert tour with another successful music association. Cash Money, Millionaires, of the Cash Money label which includes Juvenile and Lil Wayne DMX, Eve, Swizz Beats, The Lox, Dragon, and R&B group Parle were on hand with Funkmaster Flex as the co-emcee and MC as Black Entertainment Television taped the event as "New Year's Eve concert which aired December 31 nationwide."

Opening the concert was Ruff Ryders label's R&B group, Parle, who sang the "National Anthem." The group, made up of AG, Dee and Twan, sang about social issues,

relationships, and life experiences through a sound described as a blend of Al Green, Smokey Robinson, and Mary J. Blige. The group is expected to release its debut album later this year.

Next, the "First Lady" of the Ruff Ryders crew, Eve, stepped out in her white and navy blue silk jacket and hard Levi jeans with rapper Drag-On, performing such singles as "Love Is Blind" (which features Faith Evans on the single, her song about a friend being abused, and "Let's Talk About" featuring Drag-On, and the Spanish-influenced "What Y'all Want."

The Lox performed songs from its upcoming album, "We Are The Streets," set to be released Jan. 25.

Finally, crowds roared as DMX arrived toward the end of the concert with one of his trademark pit bulls in tow. He performed "What's My Name," the first single off his latest album, "X," and helped usher in the "New Year" with BET and the audience, which was adorned in party hats, tuxes, and party horns in hand. Fans also held picket signs with posters of the various Ruff Ryders.

As at the event was Mount

Vernon mayor Ernest Davis, who is busy with the town's hip-hop museum project.

Mount Vernon natives include hip-hop veterans like Heavy D, Sean "Puffy" Combs, and others.

Heavy D very significant to us," said Davis. "This is their (young black artists of hip-hop) contribution [to the town's history]."

In a press conference after the event, various Ruff Ryders talked about the upcoming tour.

"I'm ready to get it down Ruff Ryders worldwide," said an enthusiastic Eve about the upcoming tour, scheduled to kick off in February.

The tour, which will begin Feb. 16 at the MCI Center in Washington, D.C., will visit 30 cities and will end April 1 in a yet-to-be-determined venue.

Other venues being added include the Nassau Coliseum in New York and the Forum in Los Angeles. Dates and locations were still being finalized at press time.

The Ruff Ryders will tour with the Cash Money/Universal label's The Hot Boys, Turk, G.B., Big Tymers, as well as Juvenile and Lil Wayne.

MUSIC NOTES

Eric Benet and Halle Berry to jump the broom

Eric Benet and Halle Berry are engaged to be married sometime this year according to the Vibe Online. Benet asked Berry to marry him in August after a seven-month relationship that began this year.

The marriage will be the first for Benet, who has a nine-year-old daughter named India. He ended with her death in an auto-relationship with India's mother.

This will be Berry's second marriage. Berry divorced baseball player David Justice in 1996 after they were married three years before in a New Year's Eve wedding ceremony.

Jennifer Lopez insures her body for a billion dollars

Jennifer Lopez has entered the trend first established with silent screen artists from the beginning of motion pictures by taking out an insurance policy on her body worth \$1 billion according to a report from the British newspaper "The Sun." It reported that she purchased the most expensive policy with a Manhattan insurance company following the advice of her representatives at International Creative Management. It is the largest known premium to be taken out on a celebrity.



Tina Turner

Tina Turner to sing at Super Bowl

Singer Tina Turner will perform in the pre game show at the Super Bowl to be held in Atlanta on January 30 at the Georgia Dome.

According to the Associated Press, Turner will sing the like and Tina Turner classic "Proud Mary," and a new song, "When the Heartache Is Over," from her

new album "Twenty Four Seven." Turner's album is expected to be released February 1 in conjunction with her world tour scheduled in the Spring.

Billboard names Jerkins 'Producer of the Year'

Billboard Magazine has named Rodney "Darkchild" Jerkins the "Hot 100 Producer of the Year." This year has definitely been a successful one for Jerkins, whose credits include "I'm a Slave 4 U" by Monica and Brandy, Whitney Houston's "It's Not Right, But It's OK," Jennifer Lopez's "If You Had My Love," and Monica's "Angel of Mine."

The New Jersey native is currently working on Michael Jackson's latest album.



Photo courtesy of Small Voices Calling.
Martha Wash

Martha Wash, Geoffrey Holder to perform at benefit concert

Martha Wash, Odette, Geoffrey Holder, and the Boys Choir of Harlem are scheduled to appear January 11 at Carnegie Hall in New York City for a benefit concert to promote the new album, "Sounds Of A Better World."

The album, produced by veteran producer Jim Papoulis, gathered various international artists and child musicians to work on the album, with the proceeds from the concert and the album to benefit the Foundation For Small Voices.

Others scheduled to appear include the Tokyo String Quartet, The Young People's Chorus of NYC, and the Norwegian Children's Choir.

This concert will be the first of a international tour featuring various artists who performed on the album.

For tickets, call the foundation at 212 875-0121.

Plainfield showcases rising talent

PLAINFIELD: New Jersey has produced a large contribution to the world of music and entertainment in the last century through its Queen Latifahs, Sarah Vaughns, Whitney Houston, and Naughty By Nature. And last month, New Jersey saw some of the rising talent that will add its flavor in the 21st century.

This flavor was showcased at "An Evening of Artistry," presented by Experiences Entertainment Company, held last month

at Lady Green Leaves.

Over ten acts performed in various family members and friends, including the opening act, Shorty Roc, 18 and Diverse, 18, part of the Youth Entertainment Studios (YES) program in Plainfield.

The two performed "Can't Be Stopped," a song written by the two young rappers, and were just as impressed with the event as it was impressed with them.

"I liked it," enjoyed Lady Green Leaves, she got the crowd snaped

with her song, "God in Da Hood," said Shorty Roc whose real name is Khadajah Chanel Wallace.

Wallace also complimented her fellow performers.

YES is a program for youth ages 12-19, created to empower youth to become leaders of character vision and action in their communities by challenging their creativity and equipping them with practical, confidence-building media production and marketing skills.

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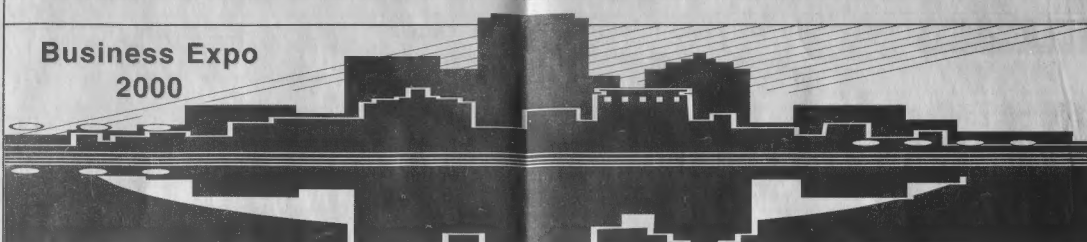
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BID (2) replacement of 192 exterior apartment

doors and 192 storm doors, new doors for community building including garage door, masonry work relating to enlarged access to crawl spaces and replacement of existing load centers, meter sockets and enclosure including new security lighting.

SEALED PROPOSALS AS IDENTIFIED ABOVE WILL BE RECEIVED FOR ALL LABOR AND MATERIALS TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT(S) BIDDERS AND THE SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR(S) WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH AFFIRMATIVE ACTION REGULATIONS OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, STIPULATED IN N.J.S.A. 10-51-31-38, AND TO COMPLY WITH CHAPTER 33 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 1977 AND WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF PUBLIC LAW OF 1975, CHAPTER 127.

The Authority reserves the right to waive any submission in any bid or bids, to reject any and all bids, and to accept such bid or bids and to make such awards as may be in the best interest of the Authority.

Bid proposals must be submitted in triplicate and as directed by the Specifications, in a sealed envelope

Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond in the amount of \$100,000.00.

bond issued by a Surety Company licensed to do business in New Jersey which is listed in U.S. Treasury Circular No. 570, or by certified check in the amount called for in the specifications, made out to The Authority. The Bid Bond or Certified Check used to satisfy the foregoing bid surety requirements shall be a

amount not less than 10% of the bid for a bid less than \$200,000; \$20,000 for a bid of \$200,001 to \$400,000 and 5% of the bid for a bid in excess of \$400,000. Bidders are advised that the amount of bid surety required shall be more than \$20,000 for bids submitted in excess of \$400,000. Proposals must also be accompanied by the affidavits, etc., referred to in the Instructions to Bidders in the Specifications. Regardless of whether the Bid Bond or certified check is submitted for proposal guarantee, each bidder shall submit a consent of surety, also, from a Surety.

Company licensed to do business in New Jersey, which is listed in U.S. Treasury Circular No. 570, stating that it will issue the necessary payment and performance bond should the bidder enter into contract for this work with the Authority.

THE DRAWINGS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF PROPOSAL, CONTRACT FORMS AND ANY ADDENDA AND MODIFICATIONS DESCRIBING THE WORK WILL BE ON FILE AND MAY BE EXAMINED AT THE OFFICES OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, 205 SEVENTH STREET, SALEM, NEW JERSEY.

JERSEY 08079 ON OR AFTER THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1999. COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT IN THE AMOUNT OF SEVENTY FIVE (\$75.00) DOLLARS PER SET DOCUMENTS WILL BE MAILED TO

PRE-BID MEETING TO BE ON JANUARY 5, 2000 @ 10AM IN BROADWAY TOWERS.

The site will generally be available for inspection from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** with the Owner, telephone: (856) 935-5022. A 24-hr notice is required to arrange a site visit.

than the minimum prevailing wage rates as required by HUD shall be paid on this project. The Bidder must submit with his Bid a notarized affidavit listing all persons owning ten percent (10%) or more of the stock in the corporation submitting the Bid, complete with addresses. The successful Bidder will be required to obtain a Payment and Performance Bond for the full

This project is being executed with funds provided by the U.S. Government through the Department of

Housing and Urban Development. \$236.80

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Athlete of the Century? Jackie Robinson, of course

Much has been made of the question regarding who should be named the century's greatest athlete. USA Today's pick is Muhammad Ali. Not a bad choice. ESPN picked Michael Jordan. Mike surely had his moments. But in my judgment, the century's top athlete is none other than Jackie Roosevelt Robinson.



Grog Moore

Sports have occupied a special place in societies for thousands of years. Depiction of athletes and the games in which they participated can be found in ancient writings throughout the world. Sports is not merely the hitting of a ball or shooting at a basketball hoop. Rather, sports has historically served as both a catalyst and indicator of social and cultural changes and norms. It is within that context, that the answer to the aforementioned question must be answered. And it is against that backdrop that no other athlete in the 20th century stands taller than Robinson.

Al defined a generation. He is revered for his outspoken opposition to the Vietnam War, and his principled sacrifices for the sake of his religious beliefs. Jordan is an international icon. He is the first black athlete to eclipse his white counterparts in both popularity and endorsement earnings. In addition, Jordan is clearly the best basketball player who ever lived. However, without a pioneer like Robinson, perhaps a guy like Ali doesn't possess the fearlessness to speak his mind. But for Robinson, who can say that Jordan would be earning the endorsements which he now commands. Robinson broke through with will of ignorance, hatred, racism and bigotry which others have been empowered to subsequently crawl through. He did it at a time when baseball was not only our national pastime, but in many ways was a metaphor for our national identity. The problems and obstacles black folk encountered on the baseball diamond, in many ways mirrored the everyday obstacles which confronted the black community in its efforts to secure economic and political equity.

Robinson was not just baseball's experiment. Jackie Robinson's integration of baseball was the great American experiment. It would provide some of the most compelling anecdotal evidence either supporting or undermining the notion that black folk deserve a seat at the table of American life, that black folks could indeed make valuable contributions, not just on a baseball diamond, but more importantly, in schools, universities, factories and plants throughout the country. Through sports, Robinson forced America to begin the process re-thinking its views on black participation in American life. A process which is still a work in progress, but a process which took some of its first baby steps on April 15, 1947, seven years before Brown v. Board of Education, when Robinson donned a Brooklyn Dodger uniform and officially broke the baseball's long standing color barrier. Why are Orvil & Wilbur Wright considered the greatest aeronautical engineers? Because they were the first to get their primitive craft in the air. Without their contraption, we wouldn't have Lear jets or commercial 747's today. Without Robinson, there would be no brass talking Ali or a money earner Jordan either. By changing the fabric of sports and society, it is clear, that no athlete left a greater more indelible imprint on this century than Jackie Robinson.

Questions, comments and reactions should all be directed to Gregory-Moore@excite.com

Nets award scholarship to Newark's Onisha Yarborough

EAST RUTHERFORD — Essex County College freshman Onisha Yarborough, a native of Newark, New Jersey, was recently presented with a New Jersey Nets Scholarship prior to the Nets home game versus the Philadelphia 76ers.

The \$4,000 Nets Scholarship, to be paid over the course of four years, was presented on behalf of the New Jersey Nets Foundation through the team's Community Youth Organization. The CYO awarded \$200,000 in scholarship money last season to deserving students from New Jersey who plan to attend or are currently attending in-state universities as well as two or four-year colleges.

"The Nets organization has always been committed to being a pro-active member of the community and fostering the development of area youth," said Nets President Michael Rowe. "This is the second year of the Nets Scholarship Program, and we are pleased to provide a needed financial boost to a diversified number of college-bound students in our community."

A 1999 graduate of Weequahic High School where she ranked 15th in her graduating class, Onisha is a Physical Therapy major at Essex County College. She has been an active member in her community by helping to feed the homeless,



Left to right, Nets forward Johnny Newman, Essex County College Assistant Dean of Students Affairs Micah Mukabi, Onisha Yarborough and Nets President Michael Rowe celebrate her achievement.

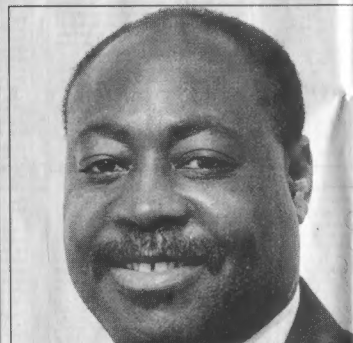
distributing food, clothing and school supplies to disadvantaged parents and children.

Recipients of the Nets Scholarship are chosen on the basis of financial need, academic performance and community service. The student must have graduated from a New Jersey high school within the past two years and must maintain institutional GPA conditions set by their chosen university or college.

Qualifying institutions need to match the \$1,000 scholarship

amount, provide a mentor for the recipient and involve the Nets in the selection process. The eleven participating institutions are: Bloomfield College, Essex County College, Hudson County Community College, New Jersey City University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Passaic Community College, Rider University, Rowan University, Rutgers-Camden University, Seton Hall University and William Paterson University.

ECC's Alphonse Prophete earns distinction as coach of the year



NEWARK — Alphonse Prophete, coach of the Essex County College men's soccer team, was recently honored by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America/Adidas as 1999 Region 19 "Coach of the Year" for two-year colleges.

Region 19 encompasses schools in New Jersey, Delaware and eastern Pennsylvania.

Prophete, of Orange, guided the Wolverines to a 14-5 record and a sixth place finish in the 1999 National Junior College Athletic Association soccer

tournament held in November. In his 13 years as coach at ECC, Prophete has compiled a 163-42-21 record.

"This is a real honor because it's an accomplishment voted on by your peers," Prophete said. "But I would have liked it much more to have won the nationals. This is a tribute to the players and the institution. I'm just one of the piers to the puzzle."

Prophete said the overall accomplishments of the team is good for the college. "ECC has been known for years for its prowess in basketball and track, and now soccer."

Prophete said the high point of the season was the three games against ranked opponents in a three day stretch — two on the road — in mid-October. The games were in Syracuse against Bryant, at home against Cuyahoga College and at the County College of Baltimore. ECC won all three.

The 1999 season was the best for the Wolverines since the 1993 campaign when the school finished second in the national championships.

Players and teams learn the hard way that some supplements are no good

By Nancy Armour

CHICAGO (AP) — Before every season, NFL players get a detailed list of what they can and cannot put in their bodies so they won't get busted by the league's drug police.

Coaches and trainers tell them over and over to bring in their nutritional supplements and vitamins if they've got any questions. And to simplify life further, some even provide select supplements.

Yet with four games left and the playoffs still a possibility, Chicago Bears quarterback Jim Miller was suspended for steroids. Despite all the warnings, he took a nutritional supplement that he didn't realize contained a banned substance.

And Miller wasn't the only one. Two other players suspended during this season, Jets nose tackle Jason Ferguson and Giants safety Lyle West, were busted after taking supplements or medications that contained banned substances.

"What more can teams do to prevent this? Nothing."

Chicago's coach Dick Jauron said, "We've told them at different times, 'If you have any questions, bring your stuff in. We'll give it to our nutritionist, we'll give it to (our trainer), we'll give it to our strength and conditioning guys.'"

"That's exactly what we've tried to do and we'll keep trying to do it," he said. "But the situation with Jim is a great example of how it's just hard to police it 24 hours."

Around NFL locker rooms these days, nutritional supplements are almost everywhere. Big plastic bottles of powders and pills that help athletes bulk up, gain strength or lose weight. Smaller bottles of vitamins. Energy drinks. Protein shakes. Energy bars.

All in the pursuit of getting bigger, faster, quicker and stronger.

"Everybody's got their own opinion," Bears offensive tackle Blake Broekmeyer said. "I think you should use supplements. If you want to be the best player you can be, and want to be the strongest and fastest and quickest, you should take supplements and vitamins and try to preserve your body as best you can."

There's just one problem: Some of the nutritional supplements on the market are a lot more than they're cracked up to be.

"They are advertised as natural nutritional supplements, but there's a wide definition of 'natural' here," said Victor Uralea, the director of sports testing at Quest Diagnostics Inc. in San Diego and the former head of the International Olympics Committee-accredited laboratory in Moscow.

"Natural" doesn't mean "should tolerate them," he said. "Marijuana is natural. Cocaine is natural. It doesn't mean they're safe."

Miller took a product — he hasn't said which one because he

doesn't want to give it added publicity — that contained nandrostenedione, a precursor to the anabolic steroid nandrolone. That means the body breaks nandrostenedione down into nandrolone or something so close that nandrolone's chemical ID will show up on drug tests.

Other supplements contain anastrozole, a testosterone-booster that St. Louis Cardinals slugger Mark McGwire once used. Though baseball only bans illegal drugs and he wasn't breaking any rules, McGwire stopped using anastrozole last season, saying he was uncomfortable being its poster boy.

While andro and nandrostenedione are on the NFL's list of banned substances, they're perfectly legal and available at most health food stores and over the Internet. Why? Because the 1994 Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act allows substances that are produced naturally to be manufactured and sold without a prescription.

"They need to revisit that act and make these steroid-hormone supplements to an 8-year-old can't buy them, let alone a quarterback," said Charles Yesil, a professor of health at Penn State and author of "The Steroid Game."

"If you're talking about spending my tax dollars to regulate a true supplement that says it's going to make you like Shaquille O'Neal, you believe that, tough for you. You should be separated from your money if you're that dumb," Yesil said.

"If the health and safety of the populace is at stake, then I think that's the more appropriate role for government."

Until then, though, the NFL has to deal with supplements. In August, the NFL and NFL Players Association sent players a letter about supplements.

"For your own health and success on the league, we strongly encourage you to avoid the use of supplements altogether," the letter read in part, "or at the very least, be extremely cautious about what you choose to take."

But players continue to use them.

"That's why many teams are willing to open up mini-health stores."

As a response to Miller's suspension, the Bears will start having their nutritionist present at the beginning of offseason conditioning and training camp, as well as when players take their physicals.

The players' association also wants to change the drug policy to avoid cases like Miller's. Joe Linta, Miller's agent, has suggested a two-strike process similar to what the league has for drugs such as cocaine and marijuana. An automatic, four-week suspension is the only option for steroids.

But no matter what happens, the ultimate responsibility rests with the players.

NFL players say new game proves league's hypocrisy toward throat-slash gesture

NEW YORK (AP) — While the NFL was banning the throat-slash gesture, the league was marketing a game in which players from all 31 teams are depicted drawing their hands across their throats.

The game, "NFL Fever 2000," carries the league logo and is produced by Microsoft.

"The gesture was approved prior to it being marketed by the league," said Chris Widmayer, the NFL's director of corporate communication. "It will be removed in the future."

Microsoft executives were not immediately available to comment Sunday, said a spokesman in Redmond, Wash.

George Young, the league vice president who wrote the letter banning the throat slash, said the game was manufactured

last summer. The ban was announced last November after New York Jets receiver Keyshawn Johnson and Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre used it. With such high-profile players making a signal the league considers mimicking a violent act, it prompted a quick reaction from the league.

"Obviously, when you're in a big corporation like this, it's hard to tie up all the loose strings," he said. "You have to keep working at it. We've got 250 people in the office and not everyone knows what everyone else is doing."

Some players called the league hypocritical for marketing the computer game.

"It's obvious they don't want us doing it," said Giants linebacker Jessie Armstead, who used the gesture earlier in the

season before it was outlawed. "But they're willing to make money off it."

Jets star Johnson said the league needs to take action.

"I would think they would pull it off the shelves," Johnson said. "They have to because if not, they're contradicting themselves on what this league should be."

"They're criticizing us for our actions. Yet they have a game with those actions in it. You can't have both. Make up your mind. I would think more kids play video games than watch NFL games."

So far the league have fined 4 players who have used the gesture. NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and other NFL owners have worked hard to keep the league up to high standards with the fans.

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